



OLD FORT CHURCH

*"Bringing People
to Jesus"*

April 2013

New
Sermon
Series



Begins April 7th

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Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

I always remember watching my favorite cartoons as a kid— Tom & Jerry, Looney Tunes, Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, just to name a few. You always knew when the cartoon was over because it would read up on the television screen for all to see, "The End." At that moment, you knew it was all over. The episode was finished, finito, over, done, it was the end. In the same way, according to the Bible, some day there will be an end to the world as we know it. Seemingly, every time we turn around there are people trying to predict the end. As a matter of fact, even the Mayan Calendar predicted the world to end on 12/21/2012. Yet we are still here.

Many thoughts, ideas, and questions surround the End Times of this world we live in. When will it be, and how will it happen? Perhaps, it will be a cataclysmic flood, or a planet will crash into us, or the zombie apocalypse. I personally think it will be the day Chuck Norris dies, or KFC finally runs out of chicken... just kidding! Perhaps we have felt like our world is ending when we've lost a loved one or received the diagnosis, or have received terrible news. The reality is we don't know when the end times are coming or necessarily how, but the Bible does give us a lot to think about on this topic.

Scripture is filled with Old and New Testament prophecies. The word prophecy is just a fancy term for being able to know the future. In the O.T. we read many scriptures that predict the coming of Christ, His death and resurrection, and they all come true. It would be safe to say then that the prophecies in the N.T. that outline what the End Times will look like are true as well, and we had better pay attention to them. So, during the month of April, we will be embarking on a four-week sermon series called *The End*. Sunday, April 7th, will be the beginning of The End. Well, at least for the sermon series.....

During this series, we are going to talk about the second coming of Christ which, by the way, is the very event that every Christ follower lives for and longs for. I'm just hoping it happens after the Detroit Lions actually win a Super Bowl. We are going to talk about things like the rapture, God's judgment, what heaven will be like, and the reality of hell. Even though we will be looking into the book of Revelations periodically throughout the sermon series, on the final Sunday we will be taking a broad survey of the book of Revelations and asking and answering many questions about its content. I pray that this series opens our hearts and minds to what it is God created us for to live forever in eternity with Him in heaven and to be reunited with all of His followers. I pray it causes us to look forward with even greater anticipation of Christ's return. I pray that understanding the rewards that await us in heaven causes us to live even more earnestly and authentically in the light of our relationship with God on earth. Eternity, Christ's second coming, Heaven is what every Christian lives for. Join us as we gain a greater understanding of the events that will unfold and the significance in what they mean for each of us. I am looking forward to sharing this time together.

Blessings,

Pastor John



Dear Friends at Old Fort United Methodist Church,

What a wonderful gift, the gift of life, hope and health! Your generous gift of a **Bed for Grace** means that each child who comes to Grace Children's Hospital will receive the best care possible. Each and every day, your gift will help provide the medicines, food and care needed to bring them back to health.

In many cases, children in Haiti die of diseases that are completely preventable. Few take notice of those who suffer from malnutrition or diarrhea. However, if a child in the United States were to suffer and die of these diseases, it would make the headlines from coast to coast. Your support helps International Child Care save lives and reach our vision of health and hope for the children in Haiti.

We hope you will proudly display your Bed for Grace Certificate and use it as a powerful reminder of the hope your gift is providing each and every day. Periodically, you will receive an update on some of the children in our program called *Children in Focus*. You will also receive our newsletter as well as pictures of some of the children who were served by your Bed for Grace. I invite you to contact us to receive more information as you need it. And as always, you are welcome to visit our flagship medical facility, Grace Children's Hospital.

Again, thank you for your gift. May you be abundantly blessed by your giving of this gift of life.....and of hope!

With sincere gratitude,
Keith Mumma
US National Director

CCW CLASS

The current Carrying Concealed Weapons classes are filled. The next class is May 11th. The class is limited to 12 and held at the church with the shooting portion held at the Grange Hall or inside at the Tiffin Police Department if the weather is unfit. Classes are taught by local instructor John Weslow. The course includes Classroom Instruction/Live Fire on Range/ Personal protection instruction and MRA Certification for Basic Pistol Qualification. John has taught over 2800 students in the last 16 years and is offering the course to us at a discounted rate. The class is open to church members and the community.

Message from the instructor: I will guarantee that after taking this basic class you will be qualified to get your Ohio CCW Permit AND you will be better prepared to protect yourself or your family with a firearm if the need ever arises.

April 6th - 9:00
@ Norm Murray's



The 4G Men's Group is meeting for the time in 2013.

We will have a short devotional by Pastor John, followed by some recreational shooting and a cookout around lunch time. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Jason Kline at 419-618-3251.

Video Announcements

We are currently looking for a team of individuals dedicated to help produce, film, design, and read announcements. Video announcements will help clarify certain goals and visions, while enabling for the best Sunday morning experience. It will take some hard work, but it will be a lot of fun as well. For any questions, please contact Mike Sooy or



United Methodist Women

will meet on Wednesday, April 3rd at Nature Trails at 10:00AM. Learn about the mission, Henderson Settlement, presented by Ron Hill. All are invited to join us for this program and fellowship. Just a reminder that the "Self-Denial Offering" will be taken at the April meeting.

Prayer Shawl Minis-



try.....

If you can knit or crochet, or want to learn, come to our meeting the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:30–8:30 PM at Betty Casselman's home.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet with the So Sew Nice Ministry on April 15th at 10:00 AM. Together they will begin to assemble the quilts for "Warm Up America." It is their hope to present them to the church the latter part of April. Thank you to everyone who knitted or crocheted squares for the quilts. The project will continue as long as people are *interested.*



The Old Fort Christian Preschool is now accepting registrations for the 2013-2014 school year. They are once again offering half and full day options. For more information, contact Terri Davenport or Kerry Wilkinson at 419-992-4325.

Features

CARE TEAM: Key members of the team, or contact people, have been established. If you know of a need, either the church office or the CARE team may be contacted.

HOSPITAL/EMERGENCY VISITATION

SHUT INS/SERVE COMMUNION

Nola Murray 419-992-4585

MEALS

Erica Snyder 567-220-6021

PRAYER CHAIN/EMAILS/PHONE

Lois Murray 419-334-2427

Ronda Krotzer 419-986-5279

FUNERAL DINNERS

Janet Keim 419-992-4433

THERE ARE HOMELESS PEOPLE IN TIFFIN

There is a new transitional homeless shelter in Tiffin named *The Morrison House*. It will provide a safe haven for homeless singles and families for a period of up to 120 days. Old Fort Church has adopted *The Morrison House* with financial assistance, as part of our missional giving. There are different ways you may become involved:

Financial, In-Kind Donations, and Volunteer assistance.

Anyone who is interested in participating in this worthwhile opportunity can contact Pat DeMonte at



HELPING HANDS —

We can, and do, make a difference in the lives of those around us that just need a little help. If you know of anyone who needs help, contact Linda Woodruff or Emily Kizer.

MISSION TEAM MEETING

Tom Schwan is organizing a mission team meeting for April 2nd at 6:30Pm at the church. This for anyone who oversees a current mission/outreach ministry, and anyone who is interested in missions or outreach.



So Sew Nice Ministry

APRIL:

Monday mornings at 10:00 AM

Saturday, April 13 - 10:00 AM

Tuesday, April 23 - 6:00 PM

Quilts for the Sparrow's Nest have been assembled and are now being quilted in preparation for the final binding process. Many THANKS to those who participated in this project.

Autumnwood loved the protectors and want more! Help is needed in cutting out the bibs. Basic kits will be available for those who prefer to sew at home.

Come join us.....many opportunities other than sewing are available. For more details or information please contact Lynn Ritter at 419-307-1993



Old Fort Church is responsible for the Habitat for Humanity meal in 2013 on the first Saturday June. If you would like to volunteer on June 1st, please contact

Dave Woodruff at 419-547-0430.

Opportunities to serve others — Liberty Center

Old Fort Church helps to serve meals at Liberty Center in Fremont on the 4th Sunday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Diane Sheets at 419-680-0042.

A One-day Interdenominational
Women's Conference

"Treasured Possession"

April 20, 2013
8:45 AM—3:30 PM
(Doors open at 8:00 AM)
At Camden Falls Conference Center
Tiffin, Ohio

Speaker: Lisa Meiners
Music: Jennifer Shaw

Sponsored by Women A.C.T.
(Acclaiming Christ Together)

Information is available on the table in the overflow
room, or by contacting Sue Parrish at 419-447-3437
or,
Mindy Wise at 419-448-8130.

WARM UP AMERICA

This is a great time of year to pick up your knitting needles or crochet hooks and start this quick and easy project. "Warm Up America" started in 1991 by author Debbie Macomber. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, this project may interest you. Each patch is 7" x 9", any color, any size needle or crochet hook, any stitch, any pattern using acrylic yarn. When you have reached the 7" x 9", bind off and start another if you so choose. All of us have odds and ends of yarn, and here is a worthwhile solution. In the overflow room, there is a basket marked "Warm Up America" for all patches. When we have 59 units, we will sew them into a warm and cozy blanket to give to someone in the area who needs it. There is a complete blanket on the rack in the overflow room for you to see. This is an all church project for women and men — yes, men do knit and crochet! The variety of patches will make it unique. Let's see how many patches we are able to make in a month or two.



"A BLOOMING BREAK-FAST"

Generations Ministry
Women's Breakfast

Saturday, May 4, 2013 @ Old Fort
Church—10:00 AM

Make your reservation and bring a
guest!

Come and partake in a
delicious breakfast prepared and
served by our gentleman crew.

After breakfast enjoy a program of
laughter and the beautiful voice of
Becky Blocksom.

Please "Blocksom" time and RSVP
by Monday, April 26th
Contact the church office
(419-992-4336) or
Carol Pence WILL BE
(419-986-5848)

You may reserve whole tables if you host a
table and have 6-8 guests.

A
FREEWILL
OFFERING



WILL
BE
TAKEN

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 8 - Chris & Catie Wise
- 9 - Joe & Sandy Gillett
- 18 - Doug & Carol pence
- 20 - Jan & Kris Riedel
- 22 - Glenn & Zelda Oakleaf

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 2 - Dan Cleveland
- 3 - Morganne Hull
- 6 - Evan Elchert
- 8 - Wes Ferguson
- 9 - Ron Willoughby
- 10 - Samantha Weaver
- 11 - Dema Watkins
- 14 - Janet Keim
- 14 - Whitney Willoughby
- 16 - Sandra Mestrez
- 17 - Courtney Fultz
- 19 - Sheri Lehner
- 21 - Mollie Snyder
- 23 - Betsy Pence
- 24 - Zelda Oakleaf
- 25 - Andrea Omlor
- 26 - William Randolph
- 27 - Norman Fry
- 27 - Ron Hill
- 27 - Jodi Saum-Stockner
- 28 - Cora Sooy
- 29 - Steve Berlekamp
- 29 - Lauren Gillett
- 30 - Elizabeth Crawford
- 30 - Ken Reese



Prayer Gathering
April 14, 2013
at 6:00 PM

Join the Lunch Bunch on the third Wednesday of the month at noon at Nature Trails. Their next gathering is April 17th.



Next Pancake Breakfast
MAY 12, 2013

serving times from
8:00 - 10:00 AM.

CHURCH HISTORY — The history and records of our church are very important, and many need to be kept for future generations to know about the past. Assistance is needed with this task. I am seeking members of the church who would be interested in helping to keep these files in order. Contact Lois Murray at 419-334-2427 or be email: mfarm2@gmail.com

PRAYER

Salem UMC in Bettsville meets on Monday mornings at 7:00 AM to pray for individuals and the surrounding communities. Zion UCC has joined us, and we are inviting anyone interested from Old Fort UMC to join us as well. Here are the meeting details:

Time: 7:00 AM

Location: Home of Jerry & Jean Ash
315 Sullivan Street
Bettsville, Ohio

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Chris at 937-830-1032



Nursery

Here at Old Fort Church, we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist with a reoccurring, yet wonderful, issue on Sunday mornings. We are bringing in younger and younger growing families, which is a beautiful dilemma. Our problem is we need a set team in place to receive babies and toddlers on a regular basis. When we don't have individuals in place, we're essentially telling folks that we don't care enough to have preparations for their children. That's the last thing we want people to think. There will be a sign up calendar in the overflow room for those interested in helping. For any questions or willingness to help, contact Willie Fultz at 419-992-4336 or email at tmnt_fan_05@yahoo.com.



OFC Family Game Night

That's right! After much demand, Old Fort Church is bringing back the Family Game Night experience. This will take place on May 19th at 6:00pm. We will be looking for family duos, consisting of one adult and one child, to be contestants. And, of course, much of the transitions throughout the night involve a live audience! For any willingness to participate, contact Willie Fultz at 419-992-4336 or email at tmnt_fan_05@yahoo.com.

Detour

Detour is the new program delegated to the youth of Old Fort Church. This will take place Sunday mornings during the 10:00 service. Those involved in the OFC Students are dedicated to providing a spiritually rich environment, while appealing to more modern tastes. We want to encourage teens, at an especially trying age, and help them answer the tough questions of today. There



will also be "Detour Days," where we will be taking the youth on mission or fun events. Look for notifications on those dates. For any questions or willingness

to help, contact Willie Fultz at 419-992-4336 or email at tmnt_fan_05@yahoo.com.



The Fort is our exciting new venture for children ages 3 years old to those in 6th grade. Those involved in the OFC Kids ministry want to create a thrilling environment where children are ecstatic about coming to church and are anxious to tell their friends. The Fort is a separate children's service that will take place during the 10:00 service. The next dates for the program will be April 14th and April 28th. The set-up will look much like a tree fort, leaving room for imagination to roll. The children will be exposed to their own music, games, and a message catered to young minds. For any questions or willingness to help, contact Willie Fultz at 419-992-4336 or email at tmnt_fan_05@yahoo.com.

**OLD FORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LEAD TEAM MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2013 —7:00 PM**

Present were: Tanya Wheatley, Pastor John Alice, Luke Riesen, Bret Fry, Lisa Randall, David Stover and Lois Murray.

Pastor John quoted from Deuteronomy 31, with Moses as leader, then to Deuteronomy with Joshua as leader when God told each leader and each generation, “Be strong and courageous. God is with you, trust in God.” Prayer was offered by Pastor John.

The secretary’s report was approved after a motion by Bret Fry, seconded by David Stover.

The treasurer’s report showed a checking account balance of \$27,279.90 The report was accepted following a motion by David Stover and seconded by Lisa Randall.

At this point, District Superintendent Marla Brown joined the group saying that she needed to meet with us. Pastor John then announced that he has been called to serve the Rolling Plains Church in Zanesville, Ohio and will be leaving Old Fort at the end of June. DS Marla Brown explained that the Bishop and the Placement Committee have studied the Rolling Plains situation and there are reasons that the church needed a pastor like John Alice to fill this pulpit, and Pastor John has accepted.

DS Marla also said that a new pastor is being considered for Old Fort and that the announcement would come after the Easter season. She then explained the process of naming a new pastor and gave each Lead Team member a 2013 Church Profile form to be filled out to better determine what attributes we think are necessary in the choice of a pastor for our church at the present time. Mention was also made about the salary to be offered and the prices of health insurance to be considered which depend on several aspects of the new pastor’s family circumstances. At this point, DS Marla left and some discussion was held with Pastor John about his and his family’s regrets for feeling the need for the new church. His seven years with us has brought much growth and association. Prayer was offered for his future success and also that of the Old Fort UM Church under new leadership.

Pastor John handed out his report, but didn’t comment due to the length of the meeting.

It is printed as follows:

Positive response to the Bible series on TV and in the accompanying Sunday sermons and Wednesday night Bible study.

Dates: Easter Eggstravaganza—Sat., March 23
Good Friday Service—7 PM

Easter services—8:30 and 11 AM--Full breakfast between

May sermon series—“Unstuck” with a Special Spiritual Growth Conference/Simulcast on Sunday, May 5

Missions: Haiti Team leaving April 13th. Money needed for ground projects, etc.

Henderson Settlement recruitment is ongoing.

Mission team meeting on April 2, 6:30 PM called by Tom Schwan

Morrison House has opened. Amber Stover is serving on the board.

Sharing Kitchen and Liberty Center supper will take place in March

Facilities: Roof leak in parsonage bath not resolved.

The old parsonage will be vacated in the summer.

Family Life: Have about 20 youth on Wednesday night and 11 on Sunday morning.

Help with youth is needed on Wednesday evenings

Working on staffing the Nursery for 10 AM serve

“The Fort” is being expanded to every Sunday Plans for a confirmation class are being explored for April

VBS planning underway—June 3 to 7

Family game night—May 19

Pastor John is meeting with the Pre-School teachers... need a liaison from the Lead Team to work with Charlotte

Pre-School Sunday—May 19th

4G Men’s event is planned for Saturday, April 6 at Norm Murray’s home.

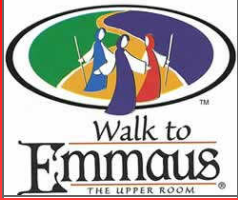
Respectfully submitted,

Lois Murray, Secretary

This summer’s VBS will take place **June 3rd – 7th**. This year’s theme will be Son Light’s National Parks! Children will experience the good news through the environment of a national park, making their own



junior ranger vests, and even visiting the lodge gift shop. For any information or eagerness to be involved, contact Willie Fultz at 419-992-4336 or email at tmnt_fan_05@yahoo.com.



THE WALK TO EMMAUS.....

IS THE LORD WITH US THEN?
(Exodus 17:7)

With another Easter upon us, it is important to understand that as believers we died with Jesus.

“While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:7-8). We are dead to our sins, to the world, and alive in Christ. Can we say, “I live, yet not I, but Christ who lives in me?” (Gal. 2:20). We are alive because of His resurrection. “Your old sinful self has died, and your new life is kept with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:3).

What does it mean to say, “Christ lives in me?” This isn’t some mystical union with Jesus. Our life is the result of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Outwardly, we live just as other people do. The difference is that a believer has an inner life that is activated and supported by the faith of Christ and the knowledge of His love in giving Himself for us. There is a hymn that calls this the CORD OF LOVE.

I’ve found a friend, O such a friend!
He loved me ere I knew Him;
He drew me with the cord of love,
And thus he bound me to Him.

(I’ve Found a Friend—James G. Small
1817-1888)

God loves us and has chosen us as His holy people, and we are called together as one body. Everything we do and say should be done with obedience and thankfulness.

Is Jesus with us then? You bet He is!

*Next Emmaus Walk is a Woman’s Walk.
June 27—30*

Please contact the church office if you need more information or would like to attend.

DeColores, Nola Murray

Henderson Settlement

Great news! We are planning to head back to the Henderson Settlement this summer. The dates, as of now, are July 14th – 20th. Please be in prayer on whether or not you, or a loved one, would benefit from this mission trip. We had quite an experience last year. The projects consisted of siding a house, installing windows, and other home construction projects. But for those who may not be equipped to handle those jobs, there were also painting and sorting jobs on the settlement itself. It is definitely a mission trip for everyone and anyone that would want to go. The youth can testify that their devotions and time invested were certainly worth it. For any information regarding this trip, or last year’s experience, please contact Willie Fultz.



*Simulcast event
coming to Old Fort
Church.....*

UnStuck....Moving from the Mundane to the Meaningful

We’ve all had those moments, those fleeting instances of clarity. We lie awake at night and for a quiet moment we see past the cluttered schedules, the rhythms and routines we’ve established. And we wonder.....how did I get here? My job. My relationships. My circumstances. You begin to realize, it’s not the life you dreamed of. You feel stuck in a life yearning for deeper meaning.

The UnStuck Simulcast will help guide you out of the ruts and pitfalls that so often ensnare us. You will be inspired and equipped through the powerful biblical teaching of Mark Batterson, Francis Chan, Lisa Harper, and Rich Stearns as they draw from the lessons of the award-winning short film Journey to Jamaica about two kids who are forced to search for hope in a broken world.

The dynamic combination of the film, profound biblical teaching and powerful real life stories from everyday people will help you to get unstuck and back on the path to a life of purpose that God intends for you. Join us for this amazing event at Old Fort Church on Sunday evening, May 5th, from 6—8 PM. All are welcome.

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING.....

“A MOMENT IN HISTORY”.....

The previous edition of this column talked about the instrumental music programs of the church. In this column, the vocal and choir music will be discussed.

There always was a choir of some kind to lead the singing in the church, but not much has been recorded about choir groups or programs in the earlier years. According to some reports, many musical programs were held, with recitations and other kinds of presentations on the agenda, which became a community thing. Children's programs were held through the year at Easter, Children's Day in June, Rally Day in September, and always, a special one for Christmas.

For church services, the congregation seemed to be blessed with good vocalists and even more blessed with good choir directors. They always enjoyed singing, and we must remember that they did not have radio, TV, or CD's to rely on. It had to be done by talented individuals, who had good leaders.

In the early years, no named choir directors were mentioned, but in the thirties, Effa Stroup (later Zimmerman) came to Old Fort School as the music teacher. She had a lot of energy and a beautiful soprano voice. She directed the church choir for many years. After she married and could no longer teach in the public school, she gave private lessons and created even more enthusiasm for the church choir. There were many good vocalists who appreciated the Christian classical music which was what everyone knew at the time. Under her direction they did Handel's "Messiah" at Christmas for several different years. They also presented many other special programs at Christmas and Easter, sometimes doing a special evening program, presenting a cantata or holiday music. In the early "40's her family moved away. Then some lay members directed the choir until Miss Betty Miller, a church member and the school music teacher, took over. After the church organ was purchased, Betty became the organist and Mrs. Alberta Ransom became a town resident and the choir director. She served well and did many innovative things for about twenty-five years until they moved

away. Later, in the "40's, choir robes were purchased. This gave a more professional touch and were appreciated by choir members. After this, Heidelberg music students were hired until the contemporary service was introduced circa 1995. At this point, a Praise Team was formed which led the congregation, using the more contemporary music along with some of the well-known hymns. It was under the leadership of Jim Ritter. Chad Stearns and Jeremy Harrison served as organists and later used the electric keyboard and/or a praise band to accompany this group. This group was active for several years.

Michael Sooy was then hired as music director, who, at this writing, leads the music in the blended service and has the help of a praise band and vocalists in the contemporary service. The Lord doth provide, and has always seemed to send the right person when needed.

Hallelujah!



SHARING KITCHEN.....

On our Monday to help at the Sharing Kitchen at St. Paul's UMC in Tiffin, it was extremely icy and quite a challenge to some of the volunteers. The thick ice delayed the start time of 8:30 AM, but everyone made it there safely.

A special thanks to those who served that morning and also to the volunteers on Thursday:

Larry & Marna Barto, Linda DeRan, Sharon Dymond, Virgil Fortney, Charlie & Charlotte Gaitros, Ron Hill, Lynn Ritter, Donna Willoughby, and Carol Wise.

The Sharing Kitchen volunteers are sponsored by the United Methodist Women.