



Oak Hills United Methodist Church
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May 2025 The Oak Notes

Pastor Article - Mother's Day

One day 4 scholars were talking about the Bible. The subject of the debate: Which Bible translation is the best? The first liked the King James Version (KJV) because of the beauty and eloquence of its language. The second liked the New American Standard Bible (NASB), because of its accuracy and faithfulness in translation. The third was sold on the New International Version (NIV), because it captured the ancient meaning in a way that was easily understood by the modern reader. Finally, after a few minutes, the fourth one spoke up and said, "I have personally preferred my mother's translation to the rest." He, then, went on to explain how his mom had translated each and every page of the Bible into her daily life. Her life, her teaching, and her example were the most convincing translation he had ever seen. It was because of his mom that he had been molded and shaped into the person that he was today. How true! Through word and deed, many a mother has done a lot of preaching to their children over the years. It may not have been from a pulpit or in any formal capacity, but it was lived out every single day.

I'm reminded of Susanna Wesley, the mother of John and Charles Wesley. Susanna was a faith filled woman. She is said to have prayed for one hour every single day for each one of her 10 children. She was a strict woman, but was unselfishly faithful. She had six general rules for teaching her kids about Jesus: (1) Subdue self-will in the child. (2) Teach him to pray as soon as he can speak. (3) Give her nothing she cries for, and only what is good when she asks politely. (4) Punish no fault confessed, but let no sinful act go unnoticed. (5) Reward good behavior. And (6) strictly honor every promise you made. In addition, she is said to have taken each child aside for a full hour every week to discuss spiritual matters. It's no wonder that John and Charles went on to become the founders of Methodism in America. Faith mattered to their mother deeply and because of it they saw it lived out and practiced every single day.

Thomas Edison once said: "I did not have my mother long, but she cast over me an influence which has lasted all my life. The good effects of her early training I can

never lose. If it had not been for her, I should never likely have become an inventor. ... My mother was the making of me!"

The godly heritage invested in us by our mothers is the foundation upon which our faith is built. The lessons we learn from our mothers are some of the greatest and most lasting lessons in life. In 2 Timothy 1:5 Paul recalls the sincere faith, which first lived in Timothy's grandmother Lois and in his mother Eunice, calling him to "fan into flame the gift of God"—that good deposit that they invested in him.

I would challenge you do the same this month. Take time to remember the godly legacy that your mom, your grandma, your spiritual mother, or some other motherly figure who invested in you over the years.

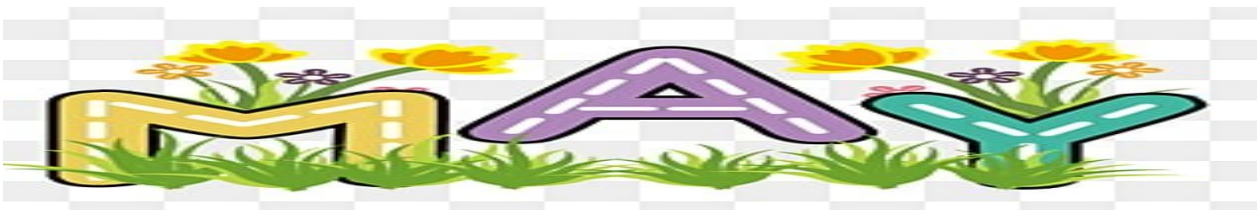
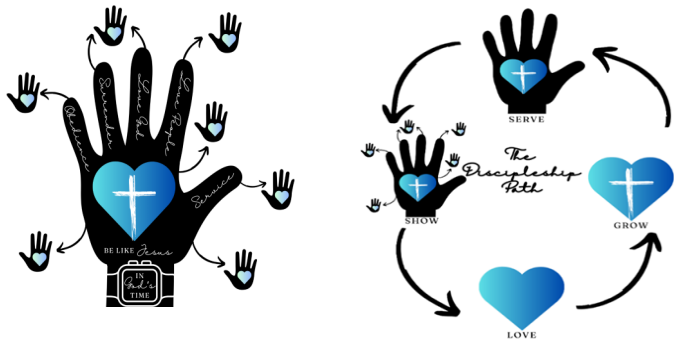
Allow that to inspire you to keep investing in your kids, your grandkids, and the other kids of our church today. You never know the difference it will make. Looking back, Susanna likely never expected she'd still be impacting countless generations of Methodists today all because of her investment in her kids.

And yet, one day in heaven, she will see all of the people who were impacted through her investment!

What about you? Who might you invest in? How might God be calling you to touch the next generation?

A very Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers and grandmothers and spiritual mothers of our church!

Pastor Justin



Administrative Board Topics of Interest

- 1) We are working to put together a brief (1 minute) video showcasing the various ministries of our church for promotion via our website, church Facebook page, and other Facebook groups. If you have any recent (last few years) pictures or brief (10 seconds or less) videos that we could use in this work, please submit those to Pastor Justin in the church office at oakhillsumc@fuse.net.
- 2) Sissy's pantry could use some help during the week to move donations downstairs and sort them in preparation for pantry time on Wed. We are also in need of assistance switching out our clothing from winter to summer selections. Please see Barb McLaughlin, Bob Schloss, or Sue Schloss if you can help.
- 3) Giving for March was strong. We brought in \$37,228 in revenue and spent only \$18,457, resulting in a profit of \$18,992 for the month. Of that, \$7,625 came from grant income. We also had a large one time gift from an unexpected donor. Thank you! That brings our first quarter to a net gain of \$14,028 for the year. That is well ahead of the loss of \$5,102 that we had at the end of the first quarter last year. Our average year to date monthly revenue stands at \$23,270 and our average monthly expenses at \$18,594.
- 4) The trustees have elected to move our maintenance contract from Cintas to Dave Zuber for our emergency lighting, exit lights, and fire extinguishers. This brings us savings of nearly \$1,600 a year.
- 5) The trustees are currently taking estimates on replacing the siding for the rental property to repair damage that was caused from squirrels getting inside it. Depending on the estimates, the trustees will determine how to proceed: either to replace all the siding or to simply patch the places that need fixed.
- 6) The trustees believe the leak in the lobby is not an issue with the roof, but the flashing at the window. Once it gets warm enough and dry enough, Anthony Smith will be caulking the window to stop the leak.
- 7) By the time this newsletter is published, the café will be finished and open for hospitality. Once it is completed, we will have a brief service of dedication and prayer over the space following worship.
- 8) Our risk taking missions team is identifying groups to appreciate once every quarter.
- 9) Our last bake sale fundraiser brought in \$157 and the Bob Evans Fundraiser around \$60



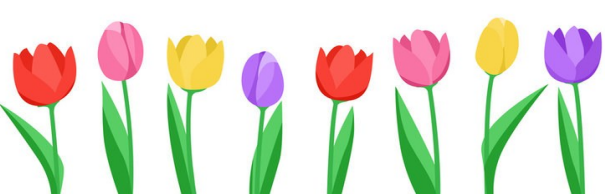
Fresh Air Promo

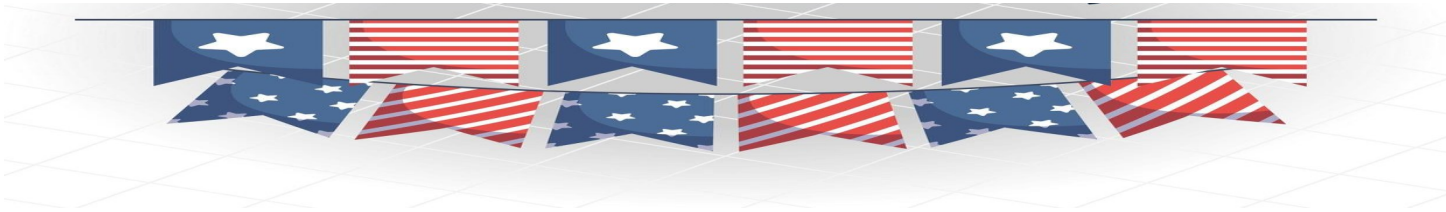
We live in a world where we are constantly weary and run down. We go to work. We work hard all day and come home only to do more work. To fix dinner. To do the laundry. To wash the dishes. To mow the lawn and weed the flowerbeds. To drive the kids and grandkids to every extra-curricular event on the planet. By the time the day ends, we're often exhausted. But when the alarm goes off the next morning, we're no more rested than we were the night before. We live in a constant state of exhaustion. But Jesus didn't die so we could barely get by. He came to restore our souls. He came that we might have life and live it to the fullest (John 10:10). As a result, over the next month, we will explore that key Wesleyan question: "How is it with your soul?" Each week, we will tend to our souls by focusing on a few key practices that refresh us and restore us like that first breath of fresh air on a nice spring day. After the heavy "Not a Fan" series we had throughout our Lenten season, this series seeks to fill us up. To restore our souls, to refresh our spirit, and to leave us soaring high in the sky like a kite in the wind.

Congrats Graduates!



This year's graduate recognitions Sunday will be Sunday, May 25. We have three graduates this year. Ashlyn Fuhrmann is graduating from Harrison High School. She plans to attend Ball State University where she will study directing and theatre creation. Sam Neiheisel is graduating from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in sociology. He is currently working at Lowes and is working toward being part of their Management Program. Sydney Walker is graduating from college; no other info is known.





Announcements

- 5/1 – National Day of Prayer
- 5/5 – Trustees, 6:30 pm
- 5/7 - UMW Luncheon, 12 pm
- 5/11 – Happy Mother’s Day
- 5/11 - Family Board Game Night, 6-9 pm
- 5/12 – Finance, 6:30 pm; Board 7 pm
- 5/13 – Great Miami River District Spring Celebration, 6-8 pm @ John Wesley UMC
- 5/14 - Dinner and Devotions, 6 pm
- 5/14 – Grief Relief, 6:30 pm
- 5/16 – Young at Heart, 7pm
- 5/18 – Church Potluck, 12 pm
- 5/23 – Arts and Crafts, 7 pm
- 5/24 – Sports Card Show, 9am-3pm
- 5/25 – Graduation Recognition Sunday
- 5/26 – Office Closed: Memorial Day
- 5/28 – Community Dinner, 6 pm
- 5/28 – Grief Relief, 6:30 pm
- 5/28-31 – West Ohio Annual Conference

- Worship – Sunday, 10:30 am
- Sissy’s Pantry – Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 pm
- Zoom Prayer – Thursday, 11 am

Weekly Bible Studies

- Sunday School 9 am
- Women’s Group: Monday 10 am
- John’s Study: Tuesday, 6 pm
- John’s Study: Thursday, 10:30 am
- Youth After School Program: Thurs, 3-4:30 p.m.

Pastor’s Wed Bible Study will be taking a break during the months of May and June due to Pastor Justin’s presence at the National Disciplemaking Forum in Houston (May 7-8), Annual Conference (May 28-31), Pastor’s Summer Vacation (June 1-14) and VBS (June 26-20). We will pick back up Wed July 9.

Kroger Rewards

Oak Hills United Methodist Church is currently set up as a beneficiary on Kroger Community Rewards. This gives a small percentage of each purchase you make at Kroger back to the church. If you have not already done so, we would encourage you to connect your Kroger card to Oak Hills UMC online. Step 1: Get a Kroger Card. Step 2: Create a digital account at Kroger.com and link your Kroger card. Step 3: Go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards and click where it says search for your organization here. Step 4: Search for Oak Hills United Methodist Church. When the church comes up, select it and click save. From now on, when you use your Kroger card a small percent of what you spent is given back to the church.

Vanco

Did you know that you can give to the church through your phone? Simply download the free Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app on your phone, search for Oak Hills United Methodist Church, and then

set up an account. Once it’s set up you will be able to give either a one time or reoccurring gift. You can also contact Linda Wise (513-205-8104; lpwise@fuse.net) to set up an automatic payment to the church.

Do you know you can now give on our church website? Simply go to www.oakhillsumc.org and click give in the bar at the top of the page or scan the QR code below and go directly to our online giving portal.



OHUMC Family Ministries



Family Ministries

Vacation Bible School

.Come one! Come all! Step right up and see the marvelous wonders waiting for you at the carnival! Carnivals are more than a place for entertainment. They're an invitation to see something extraordinary. The best part? Everyone is invited. In this year's VBS, kids can accept this invite from Jesus' himself--to be a part of something wonderful. We'll discover how Jesus invites us to use the gifts God gave us (Luke 5:1-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11), show God's love to someone new (Luke 5:27-32; Romans 12:9-13), thank God for forgiveness (John 8:1-11; 1 John 1:5-10), and share God's story with everyone (John 20:1-18; Psalm 9:1-2). And we'll culminate the week with a carnival for kids and their families on Friday night. VBS will be held the week of June 16-20. We will be looking for donations and will make that list available soon and will need people to help decorate and help for the week. Contact Kathy Gramerding if you can help in any way.



There will be a planning meeting on May 18, following the church potluck, for our **Back to School Bash** in August (Date TBD). We are asking a representative from each team/ministry of the church to be there.



Thank you to all who attended the youth group meeting and for their input. Your support is so greatly appreciated.

I have received a lot of great feed back from the kids who come after school on Thursdays - they love having a space where they can come and decompress after a long day at school. The last after school on Thursday will be May 22 for this school year. We will relaunch in the fall. This summer we are focusing on events.



Looking Ahead:

- Saturday, June 21: 1-3pm Nova Trampoline Park
- Saturday, July 12th: 2-4pm Bowling Stumps Lane
- Pool Party at Fruedemann's: Date TBD