



## August 2018 Newsletter

### Note from the office:

We will be providing a shortened newsletter for the summer months. If you have something that you would like advertised in the newsletter please have it to the office by the 25th of the month. Also, summer hours have started for the office, they are Monday– Friday 9am-noon.

Hello Church Family,

“Why do people need the church??” It’s an important question to ask. Pastor Adam Hamilton writes, “Many in our culture do not see the need for ‘organized religion.’ They say that they believe in Jesus... but they simply don’t see the need to connect with the Church.” So, in a world where such views are common, I think we better try to understand why coming to church is so critical – for ourselves and for everyone we invite!

First, Jesus Christ founded the Church. Jesus organized his followers, promised to build a church upon the faith and witness of Peter and the other apostles, and quickly sent His Holy Spirit to empower those important efforts. Jesus viewed the Church as critically important to God’s work in the world. The New Testament refers to the Church as "THE BRIDE OF CHRIST." So, the Church is absolutely an essential part of God's plans for the world and for each and every believer.

Second, the Apostle Paul reminds us that the Church is "THE BODY OF CHRIST." It is the current incarnation – the embodiment – the personification – of Jesus Christ in the world today. And the Church is charged with doing what Jesus did while He walked this earth. The Church is the voice and the hands and the feet of Christ and is an important mode of God's work and salvation in the world today.

Third, the Church is “THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.” Both Jesus and the Apostle Paul made it clear that the Holy Spirit of Christ is uniquely present wherever “believers gather together.” Jesus said, "Wherever two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them." So, when believers are gathered in worship, singing and praying with one another, the Holy Spirit is present.

Fourth, the Church is “A COMMUNITY OF FAITH.” Hebrews 10:24 says, "Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” In other words, the Church is a place to meet together, link arms together, and live out our Christian faith in community. We can accomplish far more together than we can apart. In fact, the spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit to each believer are meant to complement each other – so that, together, a Community of Faith has everything they need within its members to be effective ministers of the gospel, wherever God has planted them!

Friends, it’s clear: the Church is essential for a deeply committed Christian. It is in worship, fellowship, discipleship, Christian education, evangelism, and service that we grow and become the people God longs for us to be. Just as people need Jesus Christ, they also need the Church. And being a part of a healthy congregation is a source of great joy and the means for great growth and ministry in the life of every believer.

And there's one more answer I would add: Church is generally where people find Jesus Christ offered. Christ really is the solution to the deepest longing of the human soul. And He is the answer to the most serious of all of life's issues and battles. So, if it’s been a while since you've invited someone to come to church with you, ask them anew this month! Be bold and courageous and invite your friends and neighbors to worship! God really does love them – and He is using YOU to help draw them to His Son.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jen

**Upcoming Events at Crosswood United Methodist Church**

August 10th-12th — ODOT  
September 21st-23rd — ODOT  
September 29th, 3pm-6pm — Fall Festival  
October 26th, 6:30 pm — Trunk N Treat  
December 24th, 7pm — Christmas Eve Service

\*All events will be held at Crosswood United Methodist Church.  
More information will be available closer to the time of the event.

**ODOT Dates**

Mark your calendars! This coming season the ODOT trailer will be at the rest stop on 23 on the following dates: August 10th, 11th and 12th, and September 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Sign ups are on the Welcome Center for August and September will be available when dates draw near. For any questions please see Dennis Burns.



**Preschool**

Preschool is going to be starting up in September and Mrs. Hensel is looking for volunteers for the orientation lunches. Volunteers will be needed the week of Labor Day. There will be a sign up sheet coming soon with specific dates.

**Opportunity for Mission**

The second Sunday of each month is Pantry Sunday. Please remember to bring in pantry needs that get donated to people in need.

**Fall Festival**

The annual fall festival is coming soon!! September 29th is the big day and we will need plenty of volunteers. This is a great community outreach opportunity so mark your calendars. There will be more information and sign up sheets to come.



**August Birthdays**

8th— Charles McClaskey  
14th— Charlotte Postell,  
Nancy Shaffer  
17th— Paul Cotton  
28th— Carol Lantz  
29th— Ed Schmelzer

