



March 23 through March 29, 2025

Beloveds,

Did you know that everything we read in our English Bibles is a translation? And that in translation, there is interpretation? I know that may sound belittling, but I don't intend it to be that way - some of us genuinely have never thought about the Living Word in such a way - it's just the Bible, right? Well, yes, and no. It's complicated.

Did you know that Jesus didn't have a complete Hebrew Testament to read from? He would have read from scrolls of the Scriptures, copied by hand by scribes from other copies, copied by other scribes. He likely wouldn't have had access to every scroll from Genesis through Malachi, but several would have been shared orally, shared by the priests and rabbis. We do know he alludes to Deuteronomy and reads from the scroll of Isaiah - never mind that Jesus's Scripture and that of the Apostles was only Hebrew Scripture! Before the invention of the printing press, books of the Bible were copied by hand. Often scribes, the ones doing the writing, would put something in the margins explaining a word choice or an alternative understanding and someone transcribing it later down the line would add it right into the body of the text. Some of the inaccuracies stem from misspelling! Hebrew and Greek have letters that can look pretty similar to one another. Sometimes it was as simple as mixing up a "U" and a "V" sort of circumstance, which could change the entire meaning of a word or sentence.

And! Did you know that some of the Bible translations that we use today STILL have inaccurate translations? At the time when the KJV translation was made, the oldest, and more accurate manuscripts had not been found, meaning there were some things missing or even added! The KJV is beautiful and the wording is a comfort for many - but, it doesn't have the most accurate translations due to James's influence (a translation must fit the desires of the patron) and those more accurate manuscripts (A note: manuscript accuracy is determined through comparison, through what is most consistent among the multiple manuscripts of each book of the Bible, and other factors as well - it's complicated!).

Sometimes, the inaccuracies persist because of the translation that translators referenced to see how others had translated a word or phrase - did you know that there is no Jehovah in the Scriptures? We get the name Jehovah from one of the primary ways God's name was written in Hebrew. God's name was not to be said aloud. YHWH is a breathy sound if you try to say it - no vowels. It's not meant to be done. And so often the vowels for "Adonai" which means "Lord" or "Master" were included with the Tetragrammaton (that's the YHWH) in order to signify God's sovereignty and authority. When the German translators went to translate the Scriptures, they found "YaHoWaHi" (I would love to show you the Hebrew, but it is easier to transliterate so you can see the sounds). Y in German is a J sound, W in German is a V sound.

A translation choice made by someone a while ago can have an insurmountable impact on theology today. It's truly a fascinating rabbit hole to dive down into. My favorite "silly" but thoroughly important thing is the singular and plural "you." It's pretty easy to see in Hebrew and Greek as they have different endings, however in English, the common is "you." There's a translation that I absolutely adore because it is jarring and humorous to read. It's the "Y'ALL" Translation. On their website, you can choose the "yinz" translation, so here is Jeremiah 29:11-13 in yinzer:

“For I know the plans I have for yinz,” declares YHWH, “plans for prosperity not disaster, to give yinz hope and a future. Yinz will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to yinz. Yinz will seek me and find me, when yinz search for me with all yinz’s heart.”
(<https://yallversion.com/JER/29>)

When you have a chance sometime, I encourage you to look at some of your favorite verses - are they individualistic, or do they actually point to a larger community? Compare translations too - my favorite for easy to understand is the CEB (Common English Bible), which uses simpler phrasing and words to make reading and understanding easier to comprehend, sticking closely to the interpreted intentions of the original languages. For more closely translated word-for-word, I appreciate the NRSV or NRSVUE (New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition)). The sentences may be a little more complicated to untangle but they do well to stick to the words present in the original languages.

Friends, faith is complicated. Understanding things that are so much larger than we mere humans is complicated. When we translate and interpret together in community, it adds even more complexity. I am grateful to walk alongside OUPC as we continue to discern what it is that God’s Word has to say to us this day and each day. I am grateful for the opportunities to be nerdy about the languages I was required to study, as well as the many different theologies there are out there to explain that which we know and yet know not yet fully.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Kalyn



Worship

- We gather for worship Sundays at 10am
- 87 were in church on March 16
- No Children's Sunday School on March 30
- Worship Committee meets on March 30 following worship

Congregational Care

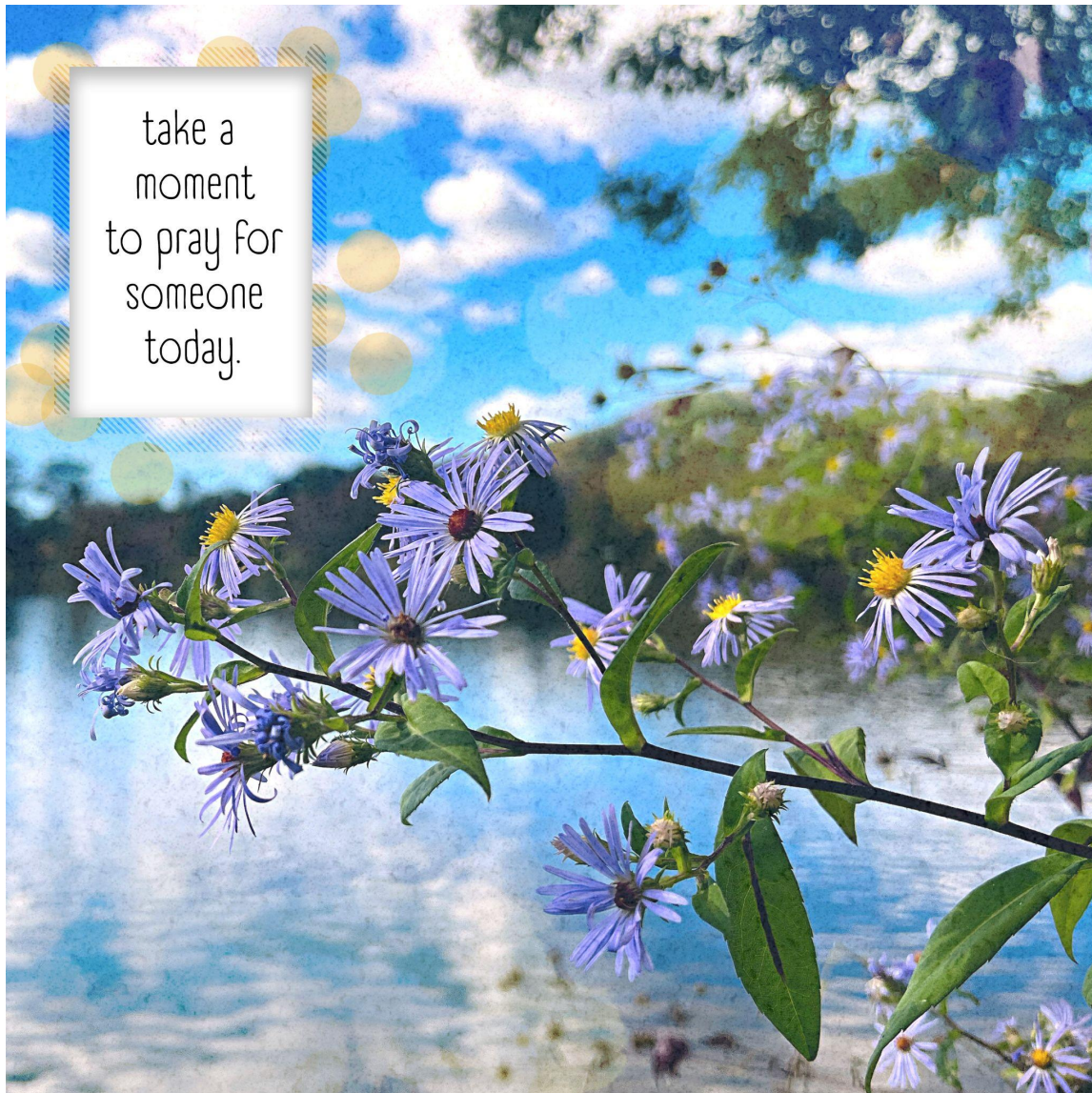
- Story Time is on Wednesday, March 26 at 9:30 or 10:30 am
- Youth Group is meeting on Saturday, March 22 instead of March 17.
- SAVE THE DATE: VBS IS GOING TO BE JUNE 9 - JUNE 13!!
- Mark your calendars for the church picnic on August 17

Missions

Lenten Mission Project – Join us in reaching our goal of \$3000 to provide a well and access to clean water for a community abroad, as well as to donate to a water bank in Butler County, providing clean water for more than 40 families without access. You can give during the children's collections (March 9 and April 13), by dropping money in the well or by designating the Lenten Mission Project in your giving.

Operations

Year to date expenses \$38,572
Year to date collections \$29,875



- Marcus McCowin–Thank you very sincerely for prayers, help and assistance during the six weeks of trial regarding Eva
- Lynn Smith–Prayers for surgery on March 24 to replace battery in her spinal stimulator
- Pastor Kalyn–Update: nothing scheduled for her cancer treatment yet
- Shirley Fluharty–Happy Birthday to Rich Palmer
- Eleanor Pike–Prayers of comfort for the family of Irene Gartley who passed last week
- Sara–prayers for Dan Fox Jr. as he has a great opportunity for a life changing career



A green bicycle with a basket of flowers and stars is positioned to the left of the word "MARCH" in large green letters. Below "MARCH" is the phrase "birthdays & anniversaries" in a cursive script.

MARCH

birthdays & anniversaries

<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Jason & Liz Cagnon 3/05	Mark Muslin 3/01	Logan Gregory 3/14	Betty Solinski 3/25
Chuck & Janice Adamski 3/22	Brenlee Knox 3/04	Harper Shaffer 3/14	Evelyn Cagnon 3/27
	Tracy Simmons 3/08	Richard Palmer 3/16	Kasey Hoth 3/27
	Savannah McLinden 3/09	Joshua Kocher 3/20	Debbie Ceccarelli 3/29
	Michael Duganich 3/11	Daniel Fox Sr. 3/21	
	Libby Urick 3/12	Casey Honess 3/23	

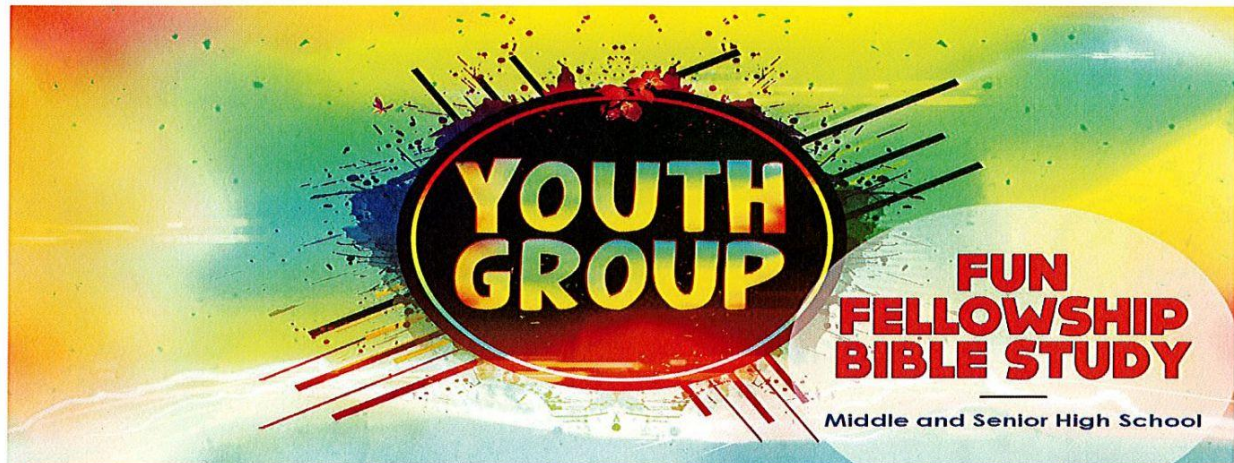


A blue bicycle with a basket of flowers and a yellow bird is positioned to the left of the word "APRIL" in large blue letters. Above the bicycle are clouds and raindrops. Below "APRIL" is the phrase "birthdays & anniversaries" in a cursive script.

APRIL

birthdays & anniversaries

<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Michael & Crystal Saxon 4/13	Holly Diccico 4/1	Doug Murdoch 4/11	Jason Arzberger 4/21
John & Bonnie Martin 4/14	Ivonne Holsinger 4/1	Denise Mathias 4/16	Nathan Burak 4/24
Denise & Chris Mathias 4/25	Jeff Davis 4/2	Donna Olexick 4/18	Paul Magee 4/27
Kenneth & Patti Strominger 4/30	Jason Cagnon 4/9	Hannah Lanctot 4/20	
	Logan Palochak 4/9	James Williams 4/20	



March 2 – Youth Group Snow Tubing

March 15 (Sat) – Youth Group 7:00-8:30

March 22 (Sat) – Youth Group 7:00-8:30

March 30 – SUNDAY Time TBD

Elevate Trampoline Park

April 5 – (Sat) - Youth Group 7:00-8:30

April 12 – (Sat) - Youth Group 7:00-8:30





Baby Shower Month

March is Baby Shower Month!! Again this year we are collecting donations for Adoption Connection in Beaver. The most needed items are as follows:

New socks
New underwear
Bedding
All hygiene supplies
Diapers
Wipes
Gently used baby gear

Donations can be dropped off in the cry room.

