



July 13 through July 19, 2025

Dear Ohio UP Family,

Most of us are familiar with Psalm 23. It is a wonderful verse in the Old Testament that brings comfort to the reader and is a wonderful memory verse I learned as a child.

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. “

Lately, this verse has been shown to me in a different and unusual way. Pastor Dick Klein let me borrow a book, “A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23” by W. Phillip Keller. Mr. Keller was a sheep rancher as a young man and later a church Lay Pastor. This book is written with his firsthand experiences with sheep.

His book brought Psalm 23 to me in a whole new light. I enjoyed the book immensely and purchased my own copy. Chapter 11 regarding Verse 6 – “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life” offered me new insight.

Because of God’s grace, we enjoy a life filled with His love and mercy. I understand that and am forever grateful for His gifts. But what about the bad times when we experience loss, suffering, pain and deep sadness, do we feel God’s love and mercy? When we want to cry out “Why me Lord?” I am reminded that even though I am a

beloved child of God, “Why not me?” This is where faith and trust in God step in and wrap their arms around us and give us strength to press on.

“Just as God’s goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life, so goodness and mercy should follow me, should be left behind me as a legacy to others wherever I may go. “ This is our responsibility as followers of Christ.

Am I using my gifts to help others? Do my words and actions leave others feeling goodness and mercy? Mr. Keller expounds on this notion beautifully and stated the Christian life is a two-way street, when we are a blessing to others, we are a blessing to God. He concluded the chapter with these sentences.

“This is the benefit we can bring to Him. He looks on my life in tenderness, for He loves me deeply. He sees the long years during which His goodness and mercy have followed me without slackening. He longs to see some measure of the same goodness and mercy not only passed on to others by me but also passed back to Him with joy.

He longs for love -- my love.

And I love Him -- only and because He first loved me.

Then He is satisfied.”

I am grateful for this opportunity to share my thoughts and pray you are well and enjoying this summer season. May we go forth and spread goodness and mercy to everyone we meet.

Choosing Joy!

Eleanor Pike



Worship

- We gather for worship Sundays at 10am
- 71 in church on July 6
- Children's Sunday School meets during worship following Children's Chat

Congregational Care

- Save the date: Get your recipes ready! The Women's Association will be having a Bake Sale during Hopewell Yard Sale Crawl on July 26. See page 5 for more details
- [Mark your calendars for the church picnic on August 17 at Hopewell Park](#)
- [Save the Date: October 25 is the Women's Retreat at Raccoon State Park. Watch for details in September](#)

Missions

Operations

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for a few people who have an interest in gardening and wish to devote some time maintaining the church gardens. Please contact Charles Hendrick at 724-203-4914 for additional information..



- Patti Strominger–The floods in Texas
- Christina Palmer–Prayers for Ann who had knee surgery last week and she wants to be up and about.
- Wendy Dameron–Praise the Lord for the music ministry; Joel and Kalyn and for Skye’s new ministry.
- Ken Jones–Prayers for friend from school, Todd, who passed away from pancreatic cancer.
- Dawn Psik–prayers for my sister Susan who met with the breast cancer surgeon on Tuesday. Please pray for peace for Susan as she has the MRI (to determine if she needs a lumpectomy or a mastectomy) and as she waits to see what the treatment will be.
- Mark Mitchell–Prayers for Chuck who passed away from cancer

Bakers and Helpers are Needed

The Women's Association will be having a Bake Sale on July 26th during the Hopewell Township Yard Sale Crawl. Bakers and helpers are needed.

Bakers: All types of bake good are welcomed. They need to be packaged ready to sell. Cookies should be packaged in ½ dozen packages. They need to be at the church by 9am that day. If you have access to the church feel free to drop them off in the kitchen on Friday. Make sure to mark them for the Bake Sale if you choose to do that.

Helpers: You need to plan to be at the church by 8:30 am that day for set up. Plan to bring a chair with you if you will be staying for the sale. That will be easier than carrying a chair from the church. We will be setting up somewhere across the road near the parking lot. Proceeds will benefit the Ohio UP General Fund.

Please contact Patti Strominger with any questions.

Phone: 724-494-2160 or Email: pattistr@gmail.com

Thank you for any help or baking you are able to do!



<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Drew & Janis Lewis 7/5	Michael Kamenski 7/1	William Diccico 7/17
Edward & Susan Burak 7/7	Jack Gennaro 7/4	Steven Ward 7/17
Michele & Scott Riddle 7/7	Bonnie Martin 7/6	Miles Rastetter 7/22
Roger & Belinda Nolte, Jr. 7/9	Joshua Magee 7/7	Christina Palmer 7/24
Andrea & Kenneth Tamburrino 7/10	Brittany McLinden 7/7	Rose Honess 7/25
Rayna & Michael Knox 7/11	Chris Otto 7/9	Susan Palochak 7/25
	Alexander Colesar 7/14	Chelsea Winkle 7/25
	Kendal Smith 7/14	Alexa Burak 7/28
	Dylan Winkle 7/14	Edna Petrella 7/28
	Mark Olexick 7/15	Jennifer Davis 7/30
	Kalyn Stevwing 7/15	Jesseca McCowin 7/30