

# The Pastor's Post

## In These Uncertain Times

If you recognize this title, In These Uncertain Times, as the title of the last quarterly Post, you're correct. I wasn't feeling lazy or uninspired. I am just feeling a bit melancholy over the latest round of senseless death and violence attributed to gun violence. Let me clearly state I totally support the 2nd Amendment and the right to own weapons.

I refuse to turn the pulpit or Post into a political venue; however, I strongly feel we need to do more than read about it and feel bad. First, if you own weapons of any kind, be certain they are secure from theft or misuse. Second, if there is anything more that you can do, I encourage you to step up and do it. Third, Yes, keep the victims and their families in our thoughts and prayers. Let me add, though, that whenever possible God places us in particular times and places to be answers, not just look for them.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to encourage you to keep HOPEFUL. The rest of the world may have doubts and be in despair. We definitely get sad and our heart aches for the tragedies that occur, but do NOT lose HOPE.

Our God created all things. Instilled in each of us at our birth is a seed of HOPE that remembers last night's sunset, but compels us to focus on this day's sunrise. Please live into the writer of Hebrews 10:23, *Let us hold unswervingly to the HOPE we profess, for He who promised is faithful.* Be thoughtful and in prayer, resist despair, and stay grounded in HOPE! HOPE in Christ is what makes Christians different.

Pastor Dave



### Bible verse to remember ...

Isaiah 40:31 Those who HOPE in the Lord will renew their strength . They will soar on eagles' wings; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.

### What's your favorite Scripture Verse? Tell me.

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## What about the church split?



I do not want to duck this issue, but the truth is that I really don't know. Here's what I know. General Conference is scheduled for 2024. In that General Conference Session the compromise or opt out plan that was previously recommended will be voted upon by delegates from the worldwide United Methodist denomination.

Prior to that session, several churches will in all probability leave the denomination for the more conservative Global Methodist Church, liberal-leaning or other denominations and non-denominations. My position is a more-centrist position. I am now, and have always been a sinner, and will always be one. Therefore, I don not support focusing on just one sin from the many the Bible preaches against.

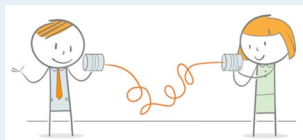
Bishop Palmer, and D.S. Tim Bias have charged me to continue preaching salvation in Jesus Christ, to know Him, and to make Him known until further notice.

### Streaming Message

Christian Endeavor is enjoying that through the wonders of technology we can worship together and share faith with others in our community, across our country, and around the world.

Hopefully, on-line worshippers will join us as we work through tough questions and issues of the day and studies of Country Music, Hard Questions of Life, stories of the Old Testament, and Hebrews later this year.

Contact Clif Smith at [tech@cenewark.org](mailto:tech@cenewark.org)



**Psalm 9:18** *God will never forget the needy; the HOPE of the afflicted will never perish.* NIV

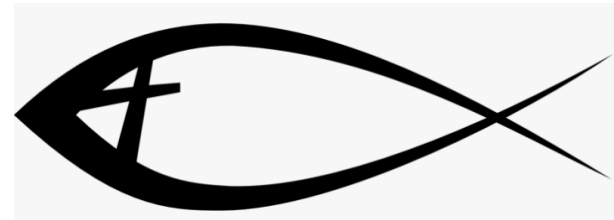
### THIS SPOT SAVED FOR YOUR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT

Here's a question: if you couldn't fail, what ministry do you have a passion and longing to try? What's stopping you. Let's try it together.

If you think it, let's talk about it.

There's a mission that God has given you a passion for and a mission that He has enabled you to accomplish for His glory. There are people waiting for your response, not alone, but with all of us serving with our own particular talent.

None of us has to do it all. We serve best, when we serve together. I'm all EARS!



**Think about this,**

To get somewhere new, you must first decide that you are tired of being where you are.



### Crisis in the Ukraine: UMCOR Serves in Our Place

Irina and her two children, Mathou (age 5) and Tapolina (age 8), evacuated from the eastern part of Ukraine as invading Russian forces began a bombing campaign on their village in the Donetsk region. As in many Ukrainian families, her husband, a history teacher, stayed behind to join the Ukrainian defense forces. At first, they told the children the sound of bombs was just distant thunder, but as the Russian missiles got closer, the children began screaming.

Irina didn't even know where to go, other than west to Lviv. On foot they tried to get to the evacuation point, but when Russian forces started shelling, they had to hide. It took multiple tries and getting into a car with Ukrainians they didn't even know, but they made it to a railway station and out to Lviv. From there, they continued west.

They finally reached Batiovo, Ukraine, in Transcarpathia, not far from the Hungarian border. There they found a refugee shelter supplied by ACT Alliance partner Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA), an ecumenical humanitarian agency of Protestant and Orthodox churches. They received beds, water, shower facilities and three meals a day. The playground outside allows Irina's children to play with other Ukrainian children, away from the sounds and devastation of the missiles.

The Batiovo refugee shelter is one of more than 120 centers supplied with food, water, hygiene products and household appliances by HIA.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is a partner in this work through its support of ACT relief work in Ukraine as well as in countries receiving the refugees. UMCOR has so far contributed \$1 million to ACT Alliance relief efforts.

### Anniversaries & Birthdays

Doris Martin	July 1
Debi Severson	July 5
Jerry/Debi Severson	July 5
Brenda Cady	July 11
Todd Martin	July 15
Dorinda Smith	July 16
David/Renae McKee	July 24
Austin/Leah Williams	July 25

Austin Williams	August 3
Jamie Trick	August 9
Robert/Michelle Williams	August 15
Mary Lou Place	August 15
Mike McKee	August 18
David Place	August 28

Bill Westerfelt	Sept. 1
Dorothy Hanlon	Sept. 8
Blake McKee	Sept. 12
Renae McKee	Sept. 15
Jacob Husk	Sept. 18
Angela Smith	Sept. 18
Walter Gemmell	Sept. 25
Bonnie Sumner	Sept. 29

### The Book of Resolutions

#### # 3426, Gun Violence

In 2010 there were 223 million firearms in the US alone. As of this writing there are an estimated 393 million.

This resolution of the UMC church condemns gun violence against all people, but highlights child victims, numbering over 3500 in 2021. Certainly, the war in Ukraine has most definitely affected women and children in a horrendous way.

Please keep our elected officials in prayer as they MUST do something to alleviate the violence that takes too many innocent lives. Pray for the victims and their families; and as hard as it is to wrap our heads around—pray for the perpetrators of the evil that may find Christ and turn from the evil that holds them



**Christian Endeavor UMC Pastor's  
Deeper Dive Bible Study**

**A Prayer for Summer**

May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do, with all whom you meet, and wherever you go.

Walk with God in honesty, with courage, with love, respect, and concern for the feelings of others.

May you talk with God today and every day, and in every situation.

Offer God your praise for the beauty of Creation, offering thanks for family, friends, and good times, asking God for help, expressing sorrow in failures.

Talk with God every day this summer! In all things, be blessed.



ALEXANDER CALDER

The studies usually last about an hour or so. We dive deeper into the subject from the previous Sunday's Scripture reading and message.

Monday evenings at 6:00 PM , online. Contact Clif Smith at **TECH@CENEWARK.ORG** for connection details.

Wednesday at 10:30 AM in the church sanctuary.

If there are other questions you have about Scripture or a current topic, don't hesitate to contact me. I may not have all the answers, but I'm sure we can have fun trying to figure it all out. **dapagura@insight.rr.com** or **614-204-3349**

**Scripture that Speaks: The Word of God for the People of God**

**Romans 5:5**

HOPE does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.. NIV

**SERMON THEMES and Schedule; July through September 2022**

July 3	1 John 1	Jesus Loves Me, Can't Stand You
July 10	Matthew 19:16-26	Would Jesus Wear a Rolex
July 17	2 Corinthians 12:6-10	I'm Just a Chunk of Coal, but ...
July 24	John 3:16-21	Christian/Jew/Muslim: 1 God?
July 31	from Genesis 1, 9, 11	Tower of Babel
August 7	Genesis 32:24-30	Jacob Wrestles God
August 14	1 Kings 18:17-40	Elijah Calls Down Fire
August 21	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of Dry Bones
August 28	Jonah 1:1-7	Jonah and the Whale
Sept. 4	from Ruth 1 and 4	Ruth and Boaz
Sept. 11	Genesis 1:31 & John 18:23-35	Where Is God
Sept. 18	Daniel 2:1--6, 27-30	Wisdom Comes with Innocence
Sept. 25	from Daniel 3	The Fiery Furnace

## Thanks to All Who Lift Us in Prayer



*"Our mission is to develop fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Our vision is to glorify God, grow disciples and change the world one person at a time."*



**FREE is the KEY word; hot dogs, sno-cones, cotton candy, refreshments AND Prizes, Games, Bounce House, Dunk Tank, water games, face-painting. Bring a friend!!! Or come and Make a NEW Friend!!!**

Christian Endeavor UMC  
1415 Londondale PKWY  
Newark, Ohio 43001



*Christian Endeavor UMC*

## Are You Looking for Answers?

SO ARE WE! Let's search for them together.

There's so much we don't know or understand about the Bible, ourselves, society. Have you ever thought, "I believe God really is good, I just don't why He allows evil." Ever ask yourself, "I want to be better; so, why do I keep stumbling over the same stuff all the time?"

We're just everyday people, just like you. Why don't you join us at Christian Endeavor UMC, 11:00 AM this Sunday. You can offer up a prayer concern or check us out online first if you'd like: **CENEWARK.ORG**.

Contact Pastor Dave at **dapagura@insight.rr.com** or **614-204-3349**.

### Pastor's Post

1415 Londondale Pkwy.  
Newark, OH 43055

Phone: 614-204-3349  
Fax: 740-964-9636  
E-mail: [dapagura@insight.rr.com](mailto:dapagura@insight.rr.com)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

