

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

good news

OCTOBER 2025



Smithville
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TO LOVE
CHRIST
TO SERVE
CHRIST
TO SHARE
CHRIST
NO MATTER
WHAT IT
TAKES



SMITHVILLE UMC

243 N MILTON ST.
SMITHVILLE, OHIO 44677
330-669-2371
smithvilleum@gmail.com
www.sumc-ohio.org

from the desk of Pastor James



Dear Smithville UMC,

As we enter October, we continue to explore how we can understand our humanity within the framework of five concepts of health: Physical, Volitional, Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual. As human beings we experience all five of these, and we are all strong in some and weaker in others. While we break them down to help us understand and work on them individually, we must always remember that they are connected in us and one will always affect the others. This month we will explore the area of mental health. Mental health is the “health” that tends to be easily understood and yet is also easily dismissed in our world. Mental health consists of our thoughts and the way we think. In our world today, we tend to view mental health as something that we can just be good at without much work. But the truth is, like any other aspect of our health, it takes work and effort to be healthy mentally.

Mental health focuses on our thoughts and how we think. Our mental health encompasses how logical or illogical we are, how we process our thoughts, and much of the time, it is what patterns our thought processes. The question becomes, what patterns of thought do we find ourselves replaying over and over again in our minds? When we’re running late, do we find ourselves thinking about the other times we’ve run late? Do we think about how we were raised to be on time? We may have already been anxious about being late and the anxiety increases. Perhaps we find ourselves alone at night. If that is the case, do we find ourselves thinking about all the people we lost, all those we miss, or how lonely we are? Or do we start to think about all the friends we still have, the blessings around us, and how we can call them tomorrow? When we are angry, do we find ourselves repeating the same scenarios in our heads and increasing our anger, or do we look at what we need to do next and let the anger go?

Mental health is highly important and affects the other 4 areas of health immensely. To do a physical work out, it takes volition (will), but it also takes the right thoughts and mood to work out. Volition is enforced by your thoughts and your mental health supports your will. To face your emotions and grow healthier takes the ability to reflect on the emotions without being trapped by them. To read scripture, reflect on what God is calling you to do, or even quiet your mind and make space for God, are examples of how our mental health affects our spiritual health. Mental health is highly influential to other areas of health and on us as human beings. However, it is not all that we are. We have to pay attention to our mental health while not losing sight of everything else.

In Philippians 2: 1-4, we see Paul call the Philippians, and us, to have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Paul calls us to work on our mental health, to work on moving our thoughts and the way we think to be more aligned with God. We see that part of what scripture is trying to teach us is that how we think, and what we focus on is important. So, are we having the same mind that was in Christ Jesus? Are we working on our mental health? What is one step we can take this month, to work on our mental health? What is one step we can take to be healthier and closer to God?



Philippians 4:4-9 (New Living Translation)

⁴ Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! ⁵ Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. ⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. ⁸ And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. ⁹ Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you."

What a difficult month September has been my friends. As I have been in conversation with many of you, it is easy to see that there is such a sense of unease, sorrow, confusion, and unsettledness among us. So today, as I sit here in my office praying about what words to share with you, I feel very led to offer you words of encouragement and direction.

I first want to remind you of what I shared last month... because the same is still true! God is still good and God is still faithful! It has been so easy to get caught up in all the emotion of these last few weeks that reminding ourselves of these simple, yet important, truths will help us focus our hearts and minds back on Jesus. In a world that feels like it is spiraling and spinning out of control, we, as disciples of Christ, need to remind ourselves of that our God is unshakable. Nothing takes God by surprise and nothing makes God afraid. The things that cause our minds to race and our hearts to panic do NOT panic God. Fix your hearts on these words and phrases that Psalms uses to describe our Father in Heaven:

"My Rock and my fortress" (Psalm 31:3), "my rock and my salvation" (Psalm 62:6), "my strength, my rock, my fortress and my deliverer...my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold" (Psalm 18:1-2), "a fortified tower" (Psalm 18: 10), "my light and my salvation...the stronghold of my life..." (Psalm 27:1). In this world we are not orphans. God's got us.

Second, I want to offer you a bit of a challenge. I know it is important to stay up to date on current events, but here is what I am encouraging you to do: Please turn off the news, put down the paper, switch off your computer or stop swiping on your smart phone. Instead, get out your Bible and turn to the Scripture passage that is listed above from Philippians 4...read it...then re-read it. Pay attention to the words and phrases that Paul uses in this text. For example, Paul begins by saying in verse 4, "Always be full of joy in the Lord." Friends, ask yourself what brings you joy in the Lord...then seek that out. Do you find God's joy when you are listening or playing music or worshipping? Do you feel joy while you are out in nature? (And it is fall so God's beauty is ready to BURST forth.) Do you find joy in time with your kids, grandkids, friends, reading or writing, crafting, mowing the lawn... wherever you find joy in the Lord, do those things!

And keep reading that Scripture text...what else does the Lord show you there? Instead of worrying (of which I will be the first to admit I am a worrier), pray! Thank God for what he has done: make a list of your blessings. Be willing to experience God's peace; allow your soul time to rest in the peace of your Savior. Breathe in his Holy Spirit and just sit in the quiet of his presence. It is ok to "be still" even when the world is running at a million miles an hour. And when the noise of this world gets to be too much, remember to "Fix your thoughts on what is true, honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." Think about Jesus and all that he has done for you and for the depth of love that he feels for you! Get a cup of your favorite fall drink, a piece of paper, and go sit among the leaves and write down things that make you smile. Because yes...the world is a VERY difficult place... but God is still good, and he is still faithful, and you are still his child!

In the love and service of Jesus,
Pastor Aimee

Offering and Attendance

Sunday, Sept 7, 2025—Offering

Loose Collection	30.00
General Fund.....	<u>4,051.00</u>
	\$4,081.00

Items Not in General Budget:

Building Fund	405.00
Apportionments.....	35.00
Missions.....	300.00
Sign Campaign.....	<u>50.00</u>
	\$4,871.00

In-person Worship Service	39
ONLINE Worship Service views	184

Sunday, Sept 14, 2025 -Offering

Loose Collection	-0-
General Fund.....	<u>3,280.00</u>
	\$3,280.00
Sign Campaign.....	20.00
Gym Rental.....	80.00
Building Fund.....	<u>300.00</u>
	\$3,680.00

In-person Worship Service	36
ONLINE Worship Service views	255

Sunday, Sept 21, 2025 -Offering

Loose Collection	-0-
General Fund.....	<u>3,055.00</u>
	\$3,055.00
Sign Campaign.....	30.00
Parsonage Rental.....	500.00
Building Fund.....	250.00
Lib Prep	150.00
Pastor payroll.....	<u>762.50</u>
	\$4,747.50

In-person Worship Service	43
ONLINE Worship Service views	

Sunday, Sept 28, 2025 -Offering

Loose Collection	20.00
General Fund.....	<u>2,415.00</u>
	\$2,435.00
Sign Campaign.....	20.00
Parsonage Rental.....	500.00
Building Fund.....	250.00
Lib Prep	4,151.44
Missions.....	<u>600.00</u>
	\$7,956.44

In-person Worship Service	39
ONLINE Worship Service views	

Smithville United Methodist Church Finances at a Glance Aug 2025

	Monthly Beginning Balance	Monthly Income	Rentals	Monthly Expenses	Monthly Ending Balance
General Fund	\$ 23,215.56	\$ 13,403.37	\$ 5,080.00	\$ 11,762.06	\$ 29,936.87
7 Paid \$11992.19 behind 1 Apportionment of \$1713.17					
Designated Accounts	\$ 30,084.61	\$ 330.00	\$ -	\$ 59.00	\$ 30,355.61
Building Fund	\$ 35,605.03	\$ 1,275.00	\$ -	\$ 4,750.00	\$ 32,130.03

Yearly Financial Summary

	YTD Monthly Income Needed for Budget	Actual YTD Usable Income - including rental	Actual YTD Expenses
2025 Budget \$196,057.00	\$ 16,338.08	\$ 141,004.52	\$ 155,339.01

Investments	Last Month	Net Change	Current Month
General Reserve Fund	\$ 24,353.32	\$ 568.04	\$ 24,921.36
Mission	\$ 16,535.75	\$ 385.72	\$ 16,921.47
Education Grant	\$ 114,662.93	\$ 2,674.63	\$ 117,337.56
Total Investments	\$ 155,552.00	\$ 3,628.39	\$ 159,180.39



Christmas Poinsettias

We will be decorating the Sanctuary with a variety of colored poinsettias this Christmas. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, choose and mark what color you prefer. The cost is \$13.00 each. Your money, accompanied by the order form may be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office by Sunday, November 23rd . You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th. Poinsettias that are left after Sunday morning, December 28th will be taken to our shut-ins if not taken within the week. Thank you for helping us beautify our church this holiday.

Poinsettias @ \$13.00 each

___Red Poinsettia ___White Poinsettia

___Jingle Bells Poinsettia (red w/white)

Pastor James- teacher (*Place Change)

Sundays at 2 PM and Wednesdays at 6 PM we will meet at the Muddy's in downtown Wooster. Join us as we explore the three letters of John during a 6 week study. All are welcome- you can purchase a drink/meal as you want.

Pastor Bible Studies Beginning in October!

What would it look like to live a life patterned after Jesus- a life of profound wisdom, peace and purpose? *A Jesus- Shaped Life* by Lisa Harper is a six-week guide to help you get there. Through daily meditations, spiritual exercises, and guided discussion questions, you will explore key aspects of Jesus's character and learn how to reproduce God's grace in your own life. This isn't about simply following rules; it's about inviting the Holy Spirit to transform you from the inside out, empowering you to live more like the person God created you to be.

There will be a sign-up sheet at each church. Everyone is invited to any of the churches or times that work best!

Pastor Aimee- teacher Bible Study Times and Days

DAY	CHURCH	TIME
Monday	COTC	11-Noon
Tuesday	SUMC	11-Noon
Wednesday	Moreland	10:30-11:30
Wednesday	Apple Creek	3-4:00

Talk To Us

330-669-2371
smithvilleum@gmail.com

243 N Milton Street
PO Box 375
Smithville, Ohio 44677

www.sumc-ohio.org



Hygiene Closet

Sunday, October 19, 4 PM

Month's Events

Meetings

Endowment- October 14, 7 PM
Adm Council- October 16, 7 PM
Missions- October 22, 7 PM

Please help our
Missions Committee by
donating towards

THANKSGIVING BAGS

DONATE ALL
ITEMS OR A FEW-
WHATEVER YOU
DESIRE!



ITEMS NEED TO BE
AT THE CHURCH
BY NOV. 2

ITEMS NEEDED:

- 1 BOX MASHED POTATOES (13.75 OZ)
- 1 CAN CORN (15 OZ)
- 2 CANS GREEN BEANS (15 OZ)
- 1 CAN CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP (10.5 OZ)
- 1 CAN FRIED ONIONS (6 OZ)
- 1 BOX MAC 'N CHEESE (7.25 OZ)
- 1 CAN YAMS (15 OZ)
- 1 CAN CRANBERRY SAUCE (14 OZ)
- 2 PACKETS DRY GRAVY MIX
- 1 BOX STUFFING (6 OZ)
- 1 PKG CORNBREAD MIX (8.5 OZ)
- 1 BOX BROWNIE MIX (18 OZ)

LET'S MAKE 55 BAGS!

MORE INFO CALL:
MARTY BYALL 330-464-1367
MARTHA SCAGGS 330-466-5718
JUDY DAVISSON 330-857-0180

SERMON CORNER



Christmas in Europe Program

October 5

Sin and Salvation

Romans 5:12-21 and 6:1-14

What are the parallels between Adam and Christ?

October 12

October 19

God's Salvation Is for Everyone!

Romans 10:5-21

Do we accept that God's salvation is for everyone? Do we proclaim it like it is?

October 26

Can people see us as Christians?

Romans 12:1-21

Are we living out our Christian lives in away that is noticeable?

Preaching Schedule for
Pastor Aimee and Pastor James
September 21, 2025– January 11, 2026

September 21 – October 19
Pastor Aimee– SUMC/COTC
Pastor James– AC/Moreland

October 26 – November 23
Pastor Aimee– AC/Moreland
Pastor James– SUMC/COTC

November 30 – December 7
Pastor Aimee– SUMC/COTC
Pastor James– AC/Moreland

December 14 – January 11
Pastor Aimee– AC/Moreland
Pastor James– SUMC/COTC

On **Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 7:00 p.m.** (note time change) Jerri Lynn Baxstrom will be giving a media presentation entitled "Christmas in Europe" in the fellowship hall of Smithville United Methodist Church. People from all our churches and communities are welcome to attend.

She and her husband Sandy have had the opportunity to travel to Europe several times during the holiday season and capture many photos. The virtual trip will take you to Scotland, Ireland, England, The Netherlands, France, Germany and Austria.

Learn some interesting details about the unique holiday customs and foods of these countries. Peek inside Westminster Abbey in London and St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, enjoy the beauty of the stained glass windows of Notre Dame de Paris. Visit Christmas markets in Edinburgh, Paris and Amsterdam. See the chapel in the Austrian Alps where "Silent Night" was first sung. These are just a few snippets.

There will be a cookies and punch reception following the presentation.



All Are Welcome!

Moreland UMC

October 25

6-8 PM

Water and coffee will be provided.
Feel free to bring snacks to share.

**Save The Date for
Ministries at Liberty Preparatory High School**

Precook Date- TBD

Thanksgiving Meal - Monday, November 24

Back to School Breakfast- Monday, January 5

Baccalaureate - Thursday, May 21

Graduation - Thursday, May 28



Birthdays

8 Tom Rolf
11 Howard Streets
16 Scott Hare
17 Michael Miller
18 Paula Merckle
Clara Grimes
Matt McElroy
21 Martha Scaggs
22 Melinda Gingery
Garland Jackson
23 Tami Buchwalter
Jay Vincent

Anniversaries

17 Richard & Pamela Beichler
21 Joshua & Katie Nickles
23 Marv and Martha Byall



**New Office Hours for Pastors
BEGINNING IN OCTOBER**

Pastor Aimee

Monday 10 AM - 2 PM COTC
Tuesday 10 AM-2 PM SUMC
Wednesday 10 AM- 2 PM Moreland
3 PM- 5 PM Apple Creek
Thursday and Friday Off

Pastor James

Monday Off
Tuesday TBD (mtgs/visits/ office)
Wednesday 9 AM - Noon COTC
1 PM - 3 PM SUMC
Thursday 10 AM - Noon SUMC
1 PM - 3 PM Apple Creek
Friday 9 AM - Noon Moreland

Pastor James
jlance12@bu.edu

Pastor Aimee
aimeejohare@gmail.com



Smithville
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH