



August 2023

Volume 127

## KNOX NEWS

The storm had passed over us during an engagement party in Cleveland for a friend. Heading home on 90W Jess and I noticed traffic slowing in front of us. We were tempted to get off and find an alternative route, but the GPS showed no delays. Slightly hesitant, we joined the crowd on 90 for the next hour.

Jess was amazing at keeping conversation and good music going... but I was stuck both physically and mentally. Couldn't stop myself from going back over my decision to not get off the highway. Couldn't stop myself from thinking, we could be home now...

Or maybe I could but wouldn't.

Whereas I'm not sure of the weird wiring of my brain, I am certain that I wasted an hour stewing, instead of connecting. I let frustration overshadow opportunity. I couldn't change the lake that had formed on 90 W at Exit 164, but I could change my attitude.

There's a whole lot in our world that we can't impact though we might like to. I guess the invitation is to identify what is ours to do. If I can't effect change in one sphere of life, what sphere can I effect?

I deeply appreciate the Serenity Prayer of AA originally written by theologian Reinhold Niebuhr (1892–1971)

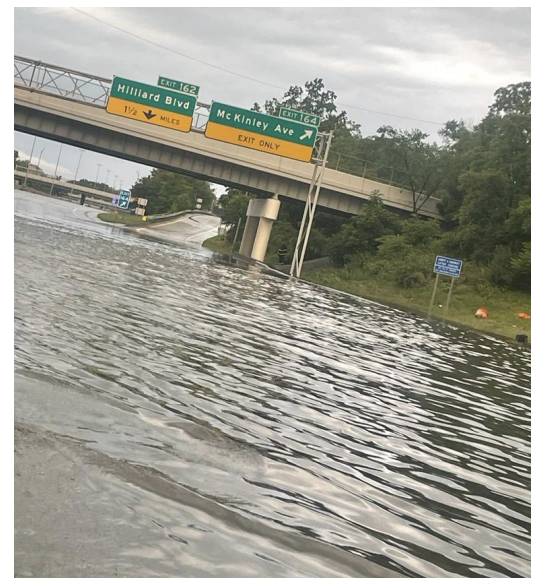
*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can,  
and the Wisdom to know the difference.*

### Original Prayer

*God, give me grace to accept with serenity  
the things that cannot be changed,  
Courage to change the things  
which should be changed,  
and the Wisdom to distinguish  
the one from the other.*

*Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time,  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
Taking, as Jesus did,  
This sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it,  
Trusting that You will make all things right,  
If I surrender to Your will,  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,  
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.*

*Amen.*



You're not alone.  
God cares about you. So do we.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## AUGUST CALENDAR

### August 5

Grounds Cleanup  
9am

### August 7

Health & Fitness Workshop  
6pm—Fellowship Hall

### August 9

Walking With Jesus  
7pm—Lounge

### August 13

Meeting With Angelo  
11am—Fellowship Hall

### August 14

Oxcart Pantry Produce Pickup  
2pm—North Lot

Session

7pm—Lounge

### August 15

Calendar Planning Meeting  
11:30am—Trinity Hall

### August 16

Choir Rehearsals Resume  
6:30pm—Sanctuary

### August 22

Community Meal  
5:30—Drive-thru

Stephen Minister's Meeting

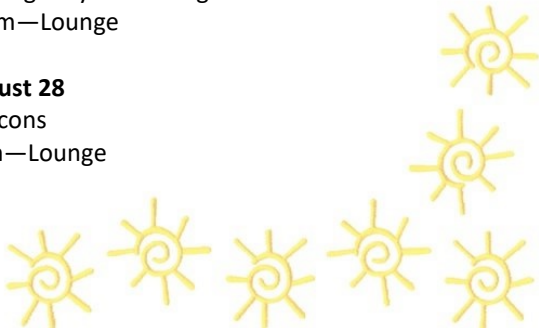
7pm—Lounge

### August 27

Healing Prayer Meeting  
11am—Lounge

### August 28

Deacons  
7pm—Lounge



## AUGUST HYBRID WORSHIP

### August 6

#### Communion

#### Worship at Sycamore Shelter

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan

*Matthew 11:28-30 & Ephesians 2:8-10*

*Learn the Unforced Rhythms of Grace*

### August 13

#### Healing Prayer

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan

*Matthew 11:28-30 & Hosea 11:1-4*

*Gentle & Humble of Heart*

### August 20

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan

*Matthew 11:28-30 & Jeremiah 6:13-16*

*You Will Find Rest for Your Soul*

### August 27

#### Elders of Jazz



## PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

John Knox Preschool is looking for a director/class aide for their weekday preschool. The preschool operates from 8:30-1:00 Monday - Friday, September thru mid-May with North Olmsted School holidays off. Contact Nancie Rachocki at [director@jkpreschool.org](mailto:director@jkpreschool.org) for additional info and licensing requirements.

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

## July 10, 2023 MEETING

- Session began with a reading of the poem “New Beginnings” by John O’Donohue continuing a discussion of the themes for worship and Session for the coming year.
- Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan welcomed Al Strauss as our newest elder addition to session.
- Treasurer, Mindi Schibley reported that regular offering is at about 55% of the budgeted amount for 2023 which is very good for this point in the year. Operating expenses were for the most part within budget. Gain year to date from operations was about \$90,000.
- Heard about the Mortgage to Ministry Campaign progress. JKPC has received \$451,414 in commitments to date. Of that amount, \$215,835 has been paid in full. Expecting to use this to pay down the principal prior to refinancing to reduce the loan amount. Estimate our monthly mortgage payment to be about \$2000 to pay off our debt over the next 3 years. Planning on a celebration event for Sunday, July 23, after the worship service.
- Discussed shortage of candidates for Position of Elder for 2024. Plan to continue the search to identify those called to lead our church which may result in an additional ordination/installation in the fall
- Continued the discussion on inclusivity, thoughts on involving the congregation in discussions, and making JKPC more welcoming and safe not just in words but in actions.
- Be The Bridge (BTB) as part of the Mission Committee reported that Angelo Anderson will be at JKPC August 13 following worship service.
- Discussed church policies and agreed to review and look at policies as a process to make sure we keep policies updated and current. Policies will be pulled together and shared digitally on Realm for Session to begin reviews.

# LOCAL MISSION

## RALLY CLE

If you are looking for an opportunity to be involved with local mission outreach, RallyCLE will be an event happening on Saturday, September 9, that you will want to learn more about!

We will be gathering a team of between 15-20 people to walk alongside a family in the Stockyard/ W25th street neighborhood to complete a project in their home. This day of relationship building is being sponsored by Building Hope in the City.

You will be learning more about this in the coming weeks. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Glenn Ploegstra at:

[gsploegstra@att.net](mailto:gsploegstra@att.net) or

Chris Hoffa at:

[ckh649@gmail.com](mailto:ckh649@gmail.com)



## KIDS HOPE

The summer is flying by, and a new school year is right around the corner! Kids Hope is welcoming new mentors and prayer partners! If you love children and want to make a huge difference in the life of a child, please consider joining us on this mentoring journey!

One Child, One Hour, One Day a Week is all you need to lift a child up and help them to see how important and amazing they are!

Please contact Athena McGinnis at the church office, 440-777-3744 or email her at: [info@johnknoxpc.org](mailto:info@johnknoxpc.org) or Chris Hoffa at 440-773-8576, [ckh649@gmail.com](mailto:ckh649@gmail.com).

We would love to talk more to you about Kids Hope!



# MISSION

## GUATEMALA PUREWATER TEAM TRIP - AUGUST 12-21

On August 5 we will pack the 150 water systems that will be installed in 150 homes who have no source of pure water! Thank you for your continued prayer and support! Thank you for providing the funds that enable us to purchase the systems. Your support, along with several other churches and congregations, have allowed us to exceed the need for the systems and will allow extra funds to be given the Funder's program for 140 children who are malnourished. Bags of nutritional food are taken to the mountain families with needs every 2-3 weeks. The food and the pure water systems will greatly help these families.

Our Team of Terry Jones, Tim and Donna Claiborne, Max and John Davenport, Lilly and Bill Horschke, Tom Drew, Sandee Seib, Bill Fike, Bill Blackie, and Ken Langdon greatly appreciate your prayer support and look forward to sharing experiences when we return.

# BREAD FOR THE WORLD

## Offering of Letters 2023

A hearty "THANK YOU" to all who wrote or digitally sent letters to U.S. Senators and Representatives. Your efforts added an additional 71 letters to those delivered during the annual Advocacy Summit in early June. In addition to our written letters there were at least eight people from John Knox who utilized the QR Code to send letters to their legislators. Your efforts make a difference!

## A Brief Update on the Farm Bill

The Advocacy Summit in June had 229 participants this year and a total 171 meetings with members of Congress and their staffs were held. The Farm Bill is due to expire at the end of September; however, it appears there will be a short-term extension to take the current bill through the end of 2023.

"This is a critical moment in our 2023 Farm Bill campaign. In recent weeks, we have seen new challenges and new opportunities arise in our advocacy for a faithful farm bill that builds healthier, more equitable, and sustainable food systems." Statement from Rev. Eugene Cho, president and CEO of Bread for the World.

At this point in time the House has introduced bills that would roll back Food for Peace which would negatively impact international programs. Bread for the World is encouraged by the following marker bills:

- Food Date Labeling Act
- Justice for Black Farmers Act
- Opportunity to Address College Hunger Act
- Puerto Rico Nutrition Assistance Act
- RESTORE Act (end SNAP ban for people with prior drug felony convictions)

Bills for GusNIP and Tribal Food Sovereignty have not yet been introduced by Bread for the World is working to add them to the marker bills.

"Bread will continue our bipartisan efforts for people who struggle with hunger – both in the U.S. and abroad. We look forward to working with Congress on the farm bill negotiations to ensure everyone experiencing hunger has access to the food and nutrition they need to lead healthy and productive lives." Rev. Eugene Cho, president and CEO of Bread for the World.



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

# BE THE BRIDGE

## A MATTHEW 25 PROGRAM

...I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me. Matthew 25:40

### Moments With Angelo Anderson

Angelo Anderson is a shelter and housing facilitator at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries Men's Shelter. He will share stories about racism, addiction, and being unhoused.

Sunday, August 13, 11am  
Fellowship Hall

JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
25200 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted



Be the Bridge is pleased to host Moments with Angelo at 11:00 AM on Sunday, August 13. Please plan to join us for a light lunch and to hear Angelo Anderson's personal encounters with racism, addiction, being unhoused and redemption. Angelo is currently a shelter and housing facilitator at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries Men's Shelter. You don't want to miss this opportunity to hear Angelo's compelling stories and to learn about the challenges facing the unhoused in our community. Plan now to join us in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 on Sunday, August 13. Reservations are not required but it would help us to know if you are coming so we have food for everyone. Contact the office to sign up.

## BRIDGE THE GAP

Have you ever walked away from an encounter with another person and later wished you had responded to something they said? Maybe it was a racist comment, something derogatory about a person who is simply being who God created them to be, or something you knew to be untrue. We have all walked away from these types of encounters. Perhaps we were afraid of getting into an argument or just so stunned we did not have the words to respond in a manner that would not result in a shouting match. These struggles are growing the divide that exists in our neighborhoods, schools, families, and nation. Until we can find a way to bridge that divide, it is only going to get bigger.

Be the Bridge is hosting a workshop that will teach us ways to have difficult conversations. Conversations that result in learning another person's story. This is not a course on persuasion, but rather one of listening, learning, gaining insight and maybe, just maybe, building relationships.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend *Bridge the Gap* on Sunday, October 22. The program will run from 11:00 AM– 1:00 PM. A light lunch will be served, and childcare will be available if needed. More information and sign-up link will be available in the coming weeks.



# COMMUNITY MEAL

## JULY COMMUNITY MEAL

For the July Community Meal, 249 meals were prepared and delivered at the drive-thru and to the Salvation Army for their lunch the following day. We served pulled pork with homemade BBQ sauce thanks to Dave A. and Dave Z. and put it on fresh baked biscuits. The side was oven-roasted fresh zucchini mixed with diced red-skin potatoes seasoned with Italian herbs. We also chopped up fresh Romaine lettuce and with citrus dressing and various toppings. Fresh baked blueberry muffins (Patty L. and Valerie L.) were also a "side", and we also gave out fresh fruit salad and vanilla ice cream as the dessert.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join this ministry. Check with Barbara Brown ([bbsfaith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bbsfaith@sbcglobal.net)) or sign up directly using the [Sign-Up Genius](#) to see where we need the most help.

The next Community Meal will be on Tuesday, August 22, from 5:30-6:30 PM. We will serve lasagna as the main dish. All are welcome to drive through.

Thank you for your continued support. So many people are being helped with this mission!



# AUTOS FOR AUTISM

In 2016 member Scott Clark brought this idea to the members of John W. Barkley Lodge. With the full support of the members he held the 1<sup>st</sup> Autos for Autism car show with 9 cars in attendance. Each year the car show gains support, not only within the lodge, but within the community of North Olmsted. After a few years the show had outgrown our lodge parking lot. We began our search for a new location. We partnered with the city of North Olmsted and have held successful cars show at the North Olmsted Park, topping out at 150 cars. The park had some challenges so last year we set out to find our next home. John Knox Church came up in a meeting, and the rest is history as they say. Working with passionate and giving people, we hope this relationship will last for years to come.



Thank you John Knox Church, staff, and parishioners for your support in our cause, Autos for Autism. This car show is to support A.C.E.S PTA. A.C.E.S. is a school that specializes in teaching children with autism. The school is located in Parma and is part of the Parma School District. The PTA is a non-profit group that organizes events for the children in that school only. They work hard to give these children a sense of normalcy. Some children with severe autism can be very challenging for the parents to provide a normal life. This school helps fill the void as best as possible.

We hope you will join us Saturday, August 5, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at John Knox Presbyterian Church. The money raised at this car show is to help with the purchase of special adaptive playground equipment and events for the children.

Jason Liss, Car Show Committee Chairman



# STEPHEN MINISTERS

## FINDING PATHWAYS THROUGH GRIEF

Our John Knox Stephen Ministry is sponsoring "Finding Pathways Through Grief" a mutual help support group. Whether it was the death of your life mate, a close friend, or another special relationship, grief is meant to be shared. The first meeting of this group will be on **Thursday, September 14, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM in the lounge** and will run for 5 weeks.

Since everyone's experience with grief is somewhat unique, you won't find us telling you how you **ought to grieve**. Instead, what you will find here are friends who care and understand what you are going through.

The group is not psychotherapy, but it will help you navigate the difficulties of this new experience. No one has to talk, but everyone is encouraged to. We will discuss the issues and concerns common to bereaved people including:

- \***What to make of the anger, discouragement, and guilt experienced in grief**
- \***How to deal with the unfair expectations of other people**
- \***Where to look for people you can trust to help you**
- \***How to manage the holidays and other special occasions in grief**
- \***Who to consider for additional support if you need it**
- \***How to take care of yourself physically**

Please call Pastor Susanne Bendoraitis, Marilyn Rep, our Stephen Ministry Coordinator, or any of our Stephen Ministers for more information, or e-mail [info@johnknoxpc.org](mailto:info@johnknoxpc.org) if you are interested in attending.



# THANK YOU!

## FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Thank you to Ken Ganley Honda of North Olmsted for the generous donation of food that was collected and given to the John Knox Food Pantry! This contribution will go a long way to feed many hungry people in our community. Each week we have many people come through to select food from the food pantry, and they will enjoy the wonderful variety that has been provided.



# John Knox Church

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

### Youth Mission Week

The youth had a great time on their local mission week, Livin' La Vida Local from July 5-7. Twelve youth and six adults served our local community through a variety of projects. We intentionally linked to John Knox ministry partners including Good Knights, Building Hope in the City, a local urban classroom, and Bridge Rehab and Performance. We also spent time team building at a Common Grounds Ropes Course and had a finale event with fun at Main Event. Thank you to all who supported us in this week and who attended the July 30 worship service where we shared our experiences. Our theme for the week was 'Love God, Love People, Repeat.' Together we learned about loving our neighbors, expanding our idea of who our neighbor is, and gratitude for God's unconditional love for us.

### August is All Age Worship Month!

In August, children and youth will join us in the main worship service as we will have family services for all ages throughout the month. This will include the outdoor service on August 6, a 'Blessing of the Backpacks' service on August 13, Bicycle Riders' Sunday on August 20, the Elders of Jazz on August 27, the Remix Band, and more. Each Sunday will have a children's sermon and be intentionally intergenerational with more interaction for all ages. There will not be Sunday School in the month of August. We look forward to worshipping together as an intergenerational community. Sunday School for Youth and Children will kick off again after Labor Day. We invite you to save the date for Rally Day on September 10 where we will kick off the programmatic year!

### Toddler Time Transition

Beckie Tweedle has been such a faithful steward of our Toddler Time community as our Director of Toddler Time. Toddler Time meets on most Thursday mornings from 10:00-11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall and has been an important outreach and fellowship group for our church and community. We have been so grateful for her work and her willingness to continue to serve during COVID and beyond. Beckie let us know that she is ready to move on to be a volunteer at JKPC, but not to work any longer. We will have an opportunity to express gratitude to her soon. In the meantime, she is overlapping with Denise, who is our new coordinator. Please join us after worship on August 20 to meet Denise and welcome here to John Knox. You can learn more about Denise on the next page.



Love God.  
Love People.  
Repeat.





# Toddler Time

## About Me!

I have been a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher for the past 7 years and absolutely love working with children! I became a stay at home mom when I had my two year old daughter Giavanna. We had a son Michelangelo last July but unfortunately lost him to an umbilical cord accident. I am pregnant with our Rainbow baby and feeling very hopeful and happy! I am very excited to be the head of the Toddler Time program and I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone on a deeper level, especially all the children and their families!! Thank you for the warm welcome!

## Denise Pappu



## Contact Info

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you and have questions or concerns  
Email: [dpappu@johnknoxpc.org](mailto:dpappu@johnknoxpc.org)

## Facts About Me

- My husband and I lived and taught in South Korea for a year
- I worked for Norwegian Cruise Line as a Youth Counselor
- I lived in Charleston South Carolina for two years
- I have a sister Janine

## Favorites

Color: Pink

Movie: Aladdin

Food: Pizza, Chicken Tikka Masala

Restaurant: Jaipur Junction or Cheesecake Factory

Book: Love Does and Monsters Love

Underpants

Hobbies: Biking, crafting, sewing, swimming

Vacation: The Beach!!



**JOHN KNOX**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**KNOX NEWS**



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
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HERE