

THE PROCLAIMER

"Faith, Family, Friends and Future"



After an extended silence, "The Proclaimer" returns to bless our members and friends with inspiration and recent news shared by our fellowship. The name for this newsletter was chosen by our beloved Ilene McClarren. This is the first of our on-line editions of this historic publication. In the pages that follow, our readers will find

encouragement and life in the articles featured in this publication. Pastor Kerr's inspirational image of the church as a lighthouse stirs our hearts to go out and share the Good News with those who are in need of purpose and direction in the rough seas of life. We dedicate this publication to all who would need this light.

FEATURED STORIES

Lenton and Easter Plans



Lenton Services at our Building will include Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday Services.

2



A breakfast will be served on Easter morning prior to the worship service at 11:00am.

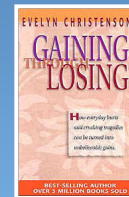
2

Spotlight



Lawrence McClarren, past moderator, trustee, deacon and valued friend is our featured member this month.

3



The Women's fellowship has been studying and praying together, enjoying the food and fun.

6

Celebrations: See page 5

Breaking News

Finally warmer days for our hometown! With the rain and melting of the great piles of snow has come an unexpected challenge for our church. After several years with a very dry basement, the flooding has returned. The trustees, in response to past flooding, had made several improvements in the basement, including a new basement door with a higher jamb

and restored walls in the nursery. On the outside, new downspouts were added during the ministry of Rev. Bowman and rain water was directed away from the building. Unfortunately, the volume of water entering the basement, apparently due to the backflow of storm drains, will be significant enough this time to require a professional restoration team.

Plans For The Lenton Season Announced

The season of Lent lasts forty days, a time of reflection and preparation for the Easter Celebration. The Ash Wednesday service on March 5th at 6:30 pm in the evening will begin the season of Lent for our congregation.

The tradition of placing ashes on the forehead of the believer has a long heritage, beginning with the early Christian Church. The ashes represent repentance and mourning, a tradition based in Old Testament and New Testament scriptures. The tradition of forty days of reflection represents the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert and the forty years that the Israelites spent in exile after

the Exodus. The ashes employed are traditionally the burned remains of palms fronds from Palm Sunday of the previous year. When the ashes are distributed in the service, the pastor proclaims, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." The wearing of ashes recognizes that all are sinners and in need of repentance and renewal.

During Holy Week, members will gather for the Maundy Thursday tenebrae service at 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Continued on page 4



On Maunday Thursday, the focus of our worship is the light of Christ which is represented by a series of candles that are darkened one at a time. As the darkness slowly covers the room, the worshipers remember how Christ dispells the darkness in the heart of the believer.

Easter Celebration Begins With Breakfast



An annual tradition for Easter, the men of the church lay out the breakfast

Kevin Smith wields the spatula, and stack after stack of pancakes move to the serving table. The work begins early on Easter morning in the church kitchen. The breakfast is a team effort as the men of the church serve the families of those who begin the day of celebration with a meal together. The pancakes are served with a breakfast egg casserole and sausages. Toast and jelly with orange juice and coffee compliment the main course.

After a blessing, the line passes by the serving table and the seats at the long tables fill with grateful family, friends and Easter guests. After breakfast, the congregation gathers in the sanctuary to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ in prayer, scripture and song.



Lawrence McClarren One Life Shared Makes A Difference

Last fall, Lawrence McClarren, and a young man that he recruited to help, cleaned out the gutters at the church - not a small task for anyone, but not too big a job for Lawrence to take on at 88 years of age! This act of love for the historic old building is one of many that have transpired over the years of service as he has shared his life with our congregation.

Born in Winameg, a great grandson to the Fulton County pioneer, Dresden W. H. Howard, Lawrence is well acquainted with most areas of farming and country life. Service to the Wauseon Congregational Church is one of his great passions in life. Joining the congregation in 1938 and married to Ilene Crile on June 28th, 1947, Lawrence has always been a "pillar" in the church. As a former deacon, multi-term Moderator, and current trustee, he continues to be a leader and friend to all of the members. Lawrence and Ilene were blessed with three children who grew up in the church, Jill

Jared and Judd. These days, when the McClarren clan gathers for a celebration in the church basement, his legacy includes nine grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren. Lawrence has been a Sunday School teacher for the adult class for many years. One of his favorite scriptures is "This is the day that the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

He has been a successful mentor to scores of the youth of the church, helping many young Christians through adolescence into adulthood. Even though his farming career kept him busy in Winameg, Lawrence always found time to help with diverse church projects. Today, he continues to provide leadership from the rehabilitation facility where he recovers from a recent traffic accident. His continued focus on the needs of the church is admired by all.

[Continued page 5...](#)

Lenton Plans (continued)

The gathering in the Fellowship Hall begins with only candles to light the room. The service includes participation by those who attend. Traditionally, the tenebre service was held on Good Friday, but the service is equally impressive and meaningful on Maundy Thursday. The story of the passion of Jesus Christ is retold by scriptural readings, connecting the triumphant entry of Palm Sunday to the scene at Golgotha in the final minutes and words of our Savior. As each reader shares a scripture, one of the candles is extinguished, and the room grows progressively darker. Those who attend this service may expect to feel the loss of the light, as Jesus walked through the steps of betrayal, abandonment, pain and suffering. In the end, only the Christ candle remains to expell the darkness. When the final words of Christ are read, a quotation of the prophetic words to be found in Psalm 22, the final candle, the Christ candle is darkened. Silence follows until a single bell begins to toll. The bell tolls thirty three times, once for each year of the life of Jesus Christ, and with each succeeding peel of the bell, the distance of the sound grows further away until once again there is only silence. Those who have shared in the service of tenebre exit the fellowship hall in silence.

Worshippers in this service may experience the emptiness that the early followers of Jesus must have felt as the the body of the Lord was

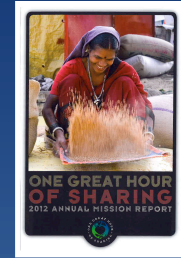
severely beaten and subjected to the brutality of a Roman judgment for death by crucifixion. While in many traditions, emphasis has been on the triumphal entry and the resurrection, the Maundy Thursday and the Good Friday services tell the entire story.

The Good Friday service this year will be sponsored by the Wauseon Ministerial Association. The Trinity Lutheran Church will host the service at 7:00 pm.

As followers of Jesus Christ today, we benefit from knowing "the rest of the story." On the third day He rose again from the dead. Following forty days of personal reflection and preparation, the tomb is found to be empty on Easter morning. Members and friends who gather in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday will enjoy the hymns of celebration and the news of the resurrection as though it were just announced. Those who had experienced the grief of loss will be freed to experience the hope of eternal life, evidenced by the resurrected Son of God.

The central west window in our beautiful church sanctuary depicts the garden tomb, and Mary who sees that it is not the gardener, but the teacher, the Rabbi, Jesus Christ who greets her on that beautiful morning. Like Mary, we will smell the fresh blooming flowers, we will sense the mystery and release, Christ with us! This day, our eternally lifted up Lord draws all unto Him, both now and forever.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



March 30th

One Great Hour of Sharing, the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



World Day of Prayer USA promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service and celebration.

Lawrence McClarren (continued from page 3)

Lawrence's life is a witness to many, including the 4H club members that he and Ilene served for fifteen years. A successful general livestock farmer, he was given the honor and distinction of being named to the Fulton County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Following Ilene's passing after sixty-one years of married life together, Lawrence sought a focus that might help to fill a very large loss in his life. As Lawrence says, "I have been a farmer all of my life." When he learned about the Food Resource Bank, he was inspired to become involved. The Food Resource Bank is a large ministry that supports sixty-eight projects in thirty-eight nations. Just one of the benefactors of this outreach is the "One Great Hour of Sharing." Lawrence took on the task to inspire farmers across Fulton County to support the goals of the Food Resource Bank. He has encouraged farmers to donate the profits from one acre of farmed land. These profits will be used to support international water conservation projects, and soil enrichment programs, helping farmers around the world to produce greater harvests.

Lawrence was the driving force behind the planning for the 150th celebration, spending hours with the varied committees that organized the event. He has also seen to it that the church records have been archived at Bowling Green State University.

Lawrence has been an example to us all. Love of Nature has been a consistent theme in his life. He states that he has probably shared some thoughts of wisdom over the years, one that he does hold dear is "Love your neighbor as yourself." He advises young Christians that the most important thing is to have a relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ, to believe in God, maker of Heaven and Earth, and to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Considering the good seed that Lawrence has sewn, one can hardly imagine the size of the spiritual harvest of this one life.

Celebrations!**Birthdays**

Asher Waldfogel-Stutesman

March 1

Lawrence McClarren

March 16

April Petz

March 20

Helen Leady

March 24

**Reminder!**

**Daylight Savings Time
Begins March 9th**

Women's Fellowship Study

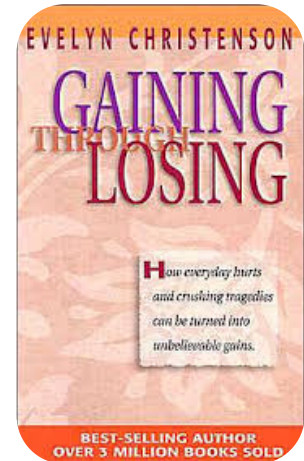
The Women's Fellowship meetings begin with casual conversations while members gather and the preparations for serving the food are completed.

After a blessing, talk flows freely from small groups to general conversation throughout the meal. This aspect of fellowship is so enjoyable that the women often have to watch closely that time will be left for prayer and discussion of the lesson.

The emphasis on prayer began with the the prior study of Evelyn Christenson's book

"What Happens When Women Pray." The women are now learning to apply the aspects of "Gaining Through Losing" by the same author. The theme of the book is submitting personal losses to God and to look for the gains that God works through the seeming losses. The meetings have provided an opportunity for the women to grow closer and strengthen their relationships with God.

The women meet monthly at 6:00 pm at the home of Joni Kerr. The meetings usually end at 8:00 pm.



"Gaining Through Losing" by Evelyn Christenson provides the devotional focus for the monthly Women's Fellowship study.

The Proclaimer is a publication created and sponsored by the Wauseon Congregational United Church of Christ, to promote the Great Commission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the of the Son of the Holy Spirit" Matthew 28:19

WAUSEON CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O.Box 172

Wauseon, OH 43567,

[Recipient]