

THE MEDINA PRESS-BYTERIAN

A NEWSLETTER OF MEDINA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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SEVEN (7) REASONS TO ATTEND WORSHIP ON VACATION

Here are seven reasons to attend a worship service on the Lord's Day even when on vacation.

1. To honor God. This reason stands head and shoulders above the rest and is sufficient in and of itself to compel one to go to church while on vacation. God is worthy of worship at all times and in all places and he commands that we believers gather for public worship, not neglecting the assembling of ourselves. In our day, too many believers hold God in such low esteem that they carry no healthy, biblical fear of the Lord in their hearts. When they are on vacation, they take a vacation from God as well, as though suddenly their lives during vacation may now be lived without reference to God. Do not take a vacation from God when you are on vacation. Be glad that God never takes two weeks off from you." Is God such a burden to us that we need a break from him?

2. To keep life ordered around God. The second reason is an issue of discipline. As the hymn writer says, "prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love." The discipline of regular attendance at worship services on the Lord's Day except for times of sickness or true emergency is a powerful tool in keeping one's life centered around God. We need a day of the week to plan our busy lives around; we need a fixed day to submit our schedules to lest we begin to center our lives around ourselves. Making the commitment to be in church while on vacation forces the vacationer to plan ahead by looking for a church to attend, organizing the travel schedule around worship, and maybe even shortening time at the beach. It keeps vacation time from being all about self-indulgence and emotional escape while reminding us that God is always to be the center of our lives.

3. To teach my child. One way children learn the value of something is from a routine established by parents, for we make regular what is important to us. If I say I love God and they should too, but act like God is someone to be vacationed from, I teach them the opposite. Parents, every choice we make tells our children what we think of God. And every choice we make tells us our children what they should think of God.

4. To witness. It amazes me how people stand up and take notice that we go to church when on vacation. People see you leave the hotel or other accommodations and head out church. They see you go to bed at a decent hour on Saturday night so you can be up on time for worship. They note when you ask where to find a church. The people you might be staying with are impacted by the fact that even if they don't go, you do.

5. To experience the joy of meeting other Christians. There is great joy in meeting other Christians in some place other than your home church, in experiencing what God is doing in some area of the world other than your own, in hearing of common struggles, victories and hopes. In world that seems too dark at times, one hour or so spent in someone else's church reminds me that God's light is everywhere his people are.

6. To experience a timely word. God speaks to us if we just pay attention! What insights and instruction and direction and affirmation might we miss if we skipped church while on vacation! What believer does not want to hear from God?

7. To give in to holy desire. True, deep happiness is found only in full surrender and service to God.

Remember that God does not take a vacation from you. Why should you take a vacation from God?

The doors of the church are always open.

Come on in to worship each and every Lord's Day to glorify and enjoy God.



BAOBOB BLAST

Vacation Bible School for All Ages
June 13-17 5:30 – 8:00 PM

At *Baobab Blast*, kids get a consistent message of God's unconditional love. Every activity helps kids understand how to build nurturing relationships with God, family, and others. At *Baobab Blast*, building relationships is not just a theory; it's a place where meaningful friendships happen. Plus, when kids participate in the mission project, Africa Jam, they learn how to help expand God's community.

During the entire week at *Baobab Blast*, interesting Bible stories create the framework for the day, lead discussions about faith, help the kids develop relationships, and guide them to realize their full potential as members of God's community. Not only is the bible at the center across the week's program, with *Baobab Blast's* engaging activities and materials, kids are inspired to take the Bible messages home and spread the Word.

What is a Baobab? Baobab (bā'ōbāb'') is a gigantic tree found in Africa that creates its own ecosystem. A baobab tree's hollowed-out trunk, leaves, foliage, nectar, fruit, and bark provide basic life needs for many different creatures. For two months out of the year, when the rain falls and the grasses are green in the African Savannah, the baobab tree produces leaves and flowers. The enormous tree can grow to 98 feet tall and 36 feet wide. Baobab trees are one of the world's oldest life forms. The baobab tree serves as a meeting place for many people to gather, discuss, and share stories.

At *Baobab Blast*, the baobab tree is the central figure—the hub of activity, energy, and life. The baobab tree supports and invites community. In fact, the baobab tree is a symbol of community.

We will start each evening with a meal. Donations will cover the meals expenses. There is a \$5.00 registration fee. You can register online through the church's website www.MPCMedina.org, on Sunday morning in the narthex, or by calling the church office.

Church picnic at our place!

On **Sunday, June 20**, following worship we will have a picnic on the grounds of the church.



Everyone is invited and asked to bring your favorite dishes to share. As a part of worship that day we will celebrate with things we have learned from Vacation Bible School.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us on this Sunday.

Why not invite your neighbors and friends to join you on this day?!



New link to the prayer chain

Our prayer chain falls under the responsibilities of the Board of Deacons.

Currently, Deacon Diane Thomas has been at the helm of our internet prayer chain. Her term on the board ends in January. Deacon Judy Kluender has stepped up to take over these duties!

You can reach Judy with your request for prayer by email at jkluender@aol.com or by calling her at home at 330.725.8733. If you would like to be added to the prayer chain or have a change in email address, please contact Judy.

June birthdays:

| | |
|----|--|
| 4 | David Carter Diane Thomas |
| 5 | David Reed |
| 6 | Brianna Conrad Nan Steinmetz Jake Wade |
| 8 | John Stephens |
| 12 | Wendy Calhoun |
| 14 | Angelina Lotarski |
| 15 | Hunter Day |
| 18 | Tobias Kohl Lana Lotarski |
| 20 | Bill Mitchell |
| 21 | Larry McCloskey |
| 22 | John Pallini |
| 22 | Kaliana Beranek |
| 23 | Shayla Ramey |
| 24 | Kent Jordan |
| 25 | Roy Teubl |
| 26 | Rosemary Balsinger |

If we missed someone, please let us know in the church office so we can add that information to our records. Thanks!

Luncheon season is underway!

The Kitchen Crew will be serving the Medina County Retired Teachers on **Tuesday, June 8th**. This is a large group. We sometimes serve over 100 people. Your help is appreciated.

If you would like to help, but cannot donate a couple of hours of your time on that date, please consider donating a dessert. The group loves having choices . . . and sugar-free desserts go fast!

Sign up to help on the sheet in the narthex or call the church office.

Note: If you have borrowed tables and/or chairs from Fellowship Hall please return them.

**Report from Session - Notes from the
May 6, 2010 Session Meeting**

- The LOOK UP! Campaign is pleased to share that we received a \$1000 grant from the Synod of the Covenant toward the cost of a new energy efficient heating/cooling unit. This is in response to the application for special grant monies available for capital improvements for congregations.
- The Session approved the LOOK UP! Campaign's recommendations from the computer committee to purchase three new computers for the MPC offices. This will network the pastor, secretary and finance offices to allow for smoother sharing of data and files and increased operating efficiencies. Software and hardware purchases will not exceed \$3000.
- The Hospitality Committee reminded us that the next MPC potluck is on May 23rd after the congregational meeting.
- The Stewardship Committee reported that two counters are still needed, please consider and forward suggestions to Keith Dirham. Steve Keizer from the Presbyterian Foundation met with the Stewardship Committee to discuss an endowment program. Session approved the formation of a task force to create a church endowment fund.

Submitted by
Cathy Powers, Clerk of Session

Dear Members and Friends of
Medina Presbyterian Church,

Just like the arrival of spring, Medina Presbyterian Church is entering a new season. With Pastor Jim Gilbert's retirement last summer, we've engaged an exceptional interim pastor, Dr. Sam Hobson, with a specific skill set that includes transitional guidance as we move from the security of Jim's pastor centered ministry into a program centered church.

Here is where we need your help: we must acknowledge the ravages of time. Our church home has seen much wear and tear over the past 25 years and is in need of critical maintenance. Specifically, the original roof needs replaced. To that end we have set a goal of \$25,000, offering "bundles" of shingles for \$100 each. The goal also encompasses our need to update our nearly obsolete computer systems. It is a testament to Laurel Jordan's patience and persistence that the publications are accomplished with both software and hardware that insist on updates.

Since the LOOK UP! Campaign started 3 months ago we have only raised \$4464, less than 20 percent of the goal. Over the Easter weekend a large section of shingles blew off and needed repair. We are in serious need of several major repairs, with the roof being a priority. We cannot tackle major repairs with our operating budget alone. With a modest budget of \$235,000 we support 5 staff positions, maintain a very large building (over 20,000 square feet- 10 times the size of an average home), and manage active and effective Christian education programs.

Any contribution will be welcomed with gratitude that will rattle the rafters. After all, we plan on raising the roof! Would you take a moment to speak to the Lord in prayer and consider what you can give to these projects. We hope that you will prayerfully consider a contribution that will help your church home, Medina Presbyterian Church, continue to serve the Lord.

Ed Hiteshue
Chair, MPC Finance and Stewardship Committee



PRIME TIMERS TRAVEL TO WILMONT

The Prime Timers will meet at the church at 11:00 am on June 23 to head to Amish country for lunch. The group will eat at Amish Door Restaurant. It is family owned and operated by the Miller family since 1977, an award winning restaurant featuring traditional and Amish kitchen cooking with a choice of menu or family-style dining.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us. Make a reservation by calling the church office or completing the Reservation form and returning it to the church office or placing it in the offering plate on Sunday. Prime Timers is open to all who are able to travel and enjoy lunch together.

RESERVATION FORM PRIME TIMERS JUNE 23

Please make _____ reservation (s) for me/us to go with the Prime Timers on June 23 to Wilmont, OH

I will need a ride _____

I am willing to drive _____

Signed _____

(drop in collection plate or call the church office.)



REMEMBER:

THE CHURCH DOES NOT TAKE A VACATION!

Your presence in worship is important. The church's financial obligations also continue during the summer. Don't forget your offerings are needed to continue the ongoing ministry of the congregation.

What is a father?

Being of the male species does not make a man a father, for a dad is a special blend of hero, disciplinarian, a friend, someone to look up to, someone to model . . . someone with a touch of the "mother" in him, someone who is big enough to say, "The fault was mine" . . . someone who lives the kind of life that makes you want to say, "I, too, shall follow him."

Dr. Alton Kaul

Father's Day
Sunday, June 20th



Don't forget to say "cheese"

Time has run out for making an appointment to have your picture taken for the new church directory! A few appointment times are still open on Saturday, June 5th. Call the church office a.s.a.p. so that your family's picture is included in the directory.

**Deadline to submit your article for inclusion in
The Press-byterian is the 20th of every month.**