

August 2008
Edition
Eva Marie Wolfe,
Pastor

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Wes Baker,
Editor



CROTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Lifting Up Jesus for the Glory of God

75 North High Street

Croton, Ohio 43013

Praise Service 9 A.M. Sunday School 10 A.M. Morning Worship 11 A.M.

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In a way, my family and I celebrated an anniversary in July. It has been one year since we came to live in this community, and became a part of this church family.

What an awesome year it has been! We have enjoyed becoming involved in the community and making many new friends. Your love and caring has made the move from our home of over 20 years so much easier.

I am firmly convinced that Croton UMC has been placed here in this community by God for a reason. I see God's love shining through each one of you. I know that you are spreading God's love in very tangible ways in the interactions you have with others, and in the many acts of service that you do in Hartford Village and the surrounding areas, both through the church and in your other pursuits. You truly are the hands and feet of Jesus!

I want to encourage you to take care of yourselves. It used to be that we could count on the "lazy days of summer" to kick back and relax a little bit. It doesn't seem as though many of us have that luxury anymore. And yet, we must take the time to care for ourselves, or we will not be able to fully enjoy God's gift of life, and we will not have the strength and the energy to do the things God calls us to do.

So, take a vacation, whether it be a local day out to enjoy a summer festival or a grand, international trip. Go to the fair (even when you're not at our booth!). Enjoy the fresh produce that is becoming so abundant at this time of the year. Spend some time outside in the sunshine and the fresh air during the cooler morning or evening times.

Please don't forget to take care of your soul as well as your body. The long summer days are a great time to renew your commitments to spend time with God and to nurture your relationship with God. Read your Bible, spend time in personal reflection, join our Bible study—or start a new study! Spend some time in nature, reflecting on God's creation. Fall in love with God all over again. Remember, God is always there for you, waiting to give you abundant life.

Shalom,
Pastor Em

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Worship in July

There are many things we do not have control over in this world, which often causes us to be anxious. Isn't it good to know that Jesus has been given authority over all things? We can turn our powerlessness over to him. This month, we will look at ways that Jesus has demonstrated his authority and his power, and take comfort and strength from the knowledge that Jesus is truly Lord over all.

August 3: Communion

Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21

Message: Feeding Body and Soul

Description: In times when money is tight, we wonder if we can even meet our basic needs. Jesus promised that God knows what our needs are, and that they will be met. Jesus demonstrated God's power to meet our physical needs by feeding 5,000 men, and an untold number of women and children.

August 10

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

Message: A Walk On the Wild Side

Description: We will be preaching this morning. The God who created the universe commands the entire created order. Jesus, the Son of God, has power over the physical earth, which he demonstrated by calming the sea.

August 17

Scripture: Matthew 15:21-28

Message: I'll Take the Scraps

Description: Charles will be preaching this morning. Jesus healed many people of demons, even healing a woman's daughter without even being in the presence of the daughter. From this we learn that the forces of evil and destruction are no match for the power of Jesus.

August 24

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20

Message: Delegate, Delegate, Delegate

Description: Leaders have the ability to delegate their authority. Jesus, knowing that he would not always be with us in the flesh, gave all the authority of heaven to Peter and to the disciples to exercise on earth. This is our heritage, and our responsibility, as Christians.

August 31

Scripture: Matthew 16:21-28

Message: A Surprising Day

Description: Many times people delay the decision to follow Christ, thinking they have time to accept him, or that forgiveness will always be available. However, a time is coming when Jesus will return to judge all the peoples of the earth. He has the ultimate authority to decide who will spend eternity in God's presence, and who will not.

Record of Faithfulness

Weekly Budget: \$1,565.00

Date	Atten.	Sun. Sch.	Offering
6/29	54	22	\$ 870.00
7/6	48	28	\$1,761.00
7/13	49	38	\$1,399.00
7/20	40	28	\$1,234.44

Special Offerings

Camp Fund Lunch	\$ 294.00
Outreach Ice Cream Soc.	\$ 394.00
Kroger Card Rebates	\$ 733.33



Thanks to:

- John Palmer for the couch donated to the youth room
- Neil Shoemaker and Zac Ross for completing the landscaping around the church
- Wes and Judy Baker, Barb McDavid, and Neil Shoemaker for their work on the

welcome center.

- Dorotha Stansbury, for organizing our evening with Michael Padula, and Michael for sharing good food and good music with us!
- Bobbie West, for the delicious meals she prepared as Fund Raisers for our Campers.



Angel Food Ministries News

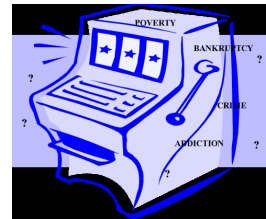
Angel Food orders are due earlier this month due to their summer delivery schedule. Please be aware that **orders must be placed by Sunday, August 10**, and delivery will be on Saturday, August 23, from 9am-11am. You can place your orders online, or at the church on Wednesday, August 6 from 10am-12 noon, or Thursday, August 7 from 6pm-8pm. You can also contact Debbie Retherford to place orders at other times. This ministry continues to grow as more people become aware of it. Please spread the word!

Three Simple Rules Study

The study on the book, Three Simple Rules, by Rueben Job, is continuing on the following dates: July 28, August 18, and August 25. All meetings are Monday nights at 7:30pm. We will be meeting at the Grube home (by the fire circle) whenever the weather permits. If you missed the first night, it is not too late to participate! There are still a few books and study guides available in the Welcome Center (and we can easily get more if we run out!).



District and Conference News



Anti-Gambling Initiative

The Methodist Church is a leader in the fight against casino gambling and other harmful gambling practices. If you are interested in attending a training session to help our congregation learn about ways to oppose the casino gambling initiative, please let Pastor Em know or see the information on the church bulletin board. There is a training session on Friday, August 8 from 10am-12 noon at Church of the Redeemer.



North Central Jurisdictional Conference Re-Appoints Bishop Ough

Bishop Bruce Ough has been re-appointed to the West Ohio Conference by the North Central Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist church. He will serve as our bishop for another four-year term. "Char and I are delighted to be coming back to West Ohio to continue our work and ministry together with the faithful servants in West Ohio," stated Bishop Ough immediately following the announcement. Please keep our bishop and other denominational leaders in prayer as they seek to lead us.

Children and Youth News End of Summer Campout

We will be celebrating with one last summer event as we get back in gear for school. On Saturday, Aug 30, we will meet at the



Stansburys' home for an overnight camp-out. We have arranged for perfect weather and no mosquitos (well, maybe we didn't really, but we will still have a great time), so be sure to be there!

It's almost "Biggest begins Sat. and runs Sat. Aug. will once



here. The Little Fair" August 2nd through 9th. We again be

operating a drink concession stand on the Midway. WE NEED YOUR HELP!! There are still some slots open to staff the booth and sell drinks in the grandstand. We could also use help setting up the booth before the Fair, restocking the freezer each night, and moving everything out of the booth on the 10th.

Sign up sheets for this important event are located in our Welcome Center or you may call Judy Baker to volunteer. Thanks!



Audio-Visual Project

A fund has now been Established for the Audio-Visual Project. We plan to complete this project in phases as funds become available. The first phase will include building a control area in the back of the sanctuary and running cables for the sound and video to the control desk. It will also include rewiring the sanctuary lighting so they can be brightened or dimmed from the rear of the auditorium. It has been estimated that about \$2500.00 will complete Phase 1. Future phases of this project will include mounting new speakers to improve our sound and the updating of equipment.

The Worship Team asks you to prayerfully consider making a financial gift to

this new fund. We are also seeking someone willing to build the desk that will be used in the control area. We are excited about the possibilities these improvements will make to our existing opportunities in audio-visual efforts in worship and communication.

—Submitted by Judy Baker, Worship Team Leader

Have You Prayed for your Church Today?

The Church Growth Committee is working hard to make our fellowship even friendlier and more welcoming, but we need your help. Prayer is such a powerful way to support, encourage, lift spirits and bring about blessings and changes. It's also something everyone can do!

Please help our church by praying for it every day. Better yet, pray with someone, as well! The Church Growth Committee asks that everyone find a prayer partner — be it friend, spouse, family member, etc. Then, set aside a day and time and be certain to pray for our church, for its growth and for God's blessing upon us. You may select any day of the week and any time. Simply invite another person to join you, and pick a day and time; for example, meet with a friend each Wednesday at 4 P.M., and pray together for our church for at least 5 minutes. Then continue to pray for our church, on your own, every day. But be careful what you pray for as God might give you what you are requesting. Amen!

—Submitted by Cheryl Pokorny, Church Growth Committee Leader





Welcome Center

You are cordially invited to visit our newly renovated Welcome Center which is located in the overflow room adjacent to the sanctuary.

Enjoy a cold drink, or hot coffee or tea, as you browse through displays of our current church programs and projects. Pick up your monthly Upper Room for home devotions and additional literature. Sign up to assist with ministry opportunities (so we don't have to pass clipboards around during worship services). Best of all, spend time visiting with family and friends.



Promise Keepers

On September 5th and 6th, a program for men entitled **Manhood '08: Let the Truth Be Told**, will be hosted in the Cleveland, Ohio at the Wolstein Center. This will require immediate registration and an overnight stay in the area. This program is aimed at equipping men to get a handle on their life and mission, amidst a shifting culture that is sometimes outright hostile. Please see pastor Em or Charles West if you are interested in attending this event.

—submitted by Charles West

A Prayer for Today

I'm thankful, Father, for the good things that are ahead of me, for what tomorrow holds. But help me to realize that it's Today people need to see in me an image of the abundant life that can be theirs too.

Keep me, Father, from unduly dwelling on the "sweet by-and-by"; of neglecting to give priority to living life to the full today. And help me not to dwell in the past, longing for what it may have held, for You know, Lord, that there is no road back to yesterday. But today is mine, this slice of time. Now is the only time I can love and serve You and others.

I'm thankful You have made this important to me while I can do something about it.... Thank you for being a *present*—a now Friend. And help me to share this with people who seem to feel that knowing and loving You brings future joys but none in the present. Help me to show them what You have made plain to me, that for the Christian, happiness is now. Amen.

—copied from **The Image of Joy** by Jeanette Lockerbie.



Excerpt from "[The Way of Evil, The Way of Love](#)" By Peace Pilgrim



Evil cannot be overcome by more evil. Evil can only be overcome by good. We need not reach out to tear down that which is evil because nothing which is contrary to God's laws can endure. All not-good things in the world are transient, containing within themselves the seeds of their own destruction. ...

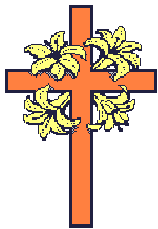
How can anyone doubt that eventually God will prevail? It is only how soon that is up to us. And with how much violence they will pass away is also up to us.

In order to help usher in the golden age we must see the good in people. We must know it is there, no matter how deeply it may be buried...It is not through judgment that the good can be reached, but through love and faith.

Pure love is a willingness to give, without a thought of receiving anything in return. ...
Make yourself fit to be called a child of God by living the way of love.

Peace Pilgrim, 1908-1981, is the name taken by a woman who, at the point of retirement, walked thousands of miles across the U.S. teaching the way to peace.

**The Croton United Methodist Church
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