

What do you do when the dove keeps coming back?

Is crisis too strong a word? The 4/10 of an inch of water dumped out of the rain gauge this morning really was not very much. . . except that was added to 4/10 yesterday and 4/10 the day before and 4/10 the day before that back to the middle of April. For farmers, the crisis is unprecedented. Some years planting is finished early, other years later, but there has never had a year when nothing or next to nothing was planted. Construction workers hampered by the weather are frustrated as are others in our area whose livelihood depends on sunshine and dry weather.

It may be little consolation, but the Bible has a story where it rained longer and harder—forty days and forty nights—until the whole earth was covered (Genesis 7:17-20). Noah and the other seven survivors of humanity lived in a floating barn. They worked hard and the gloomy weather was uninterrupted by sunshine. In the Spartan, cramped quarters, they were getting on each others nerves. Even after it stopped raining, they were still floating on an endless ocean. When they finally ran aground on Mount Ararat, they had to stay on board because they were surrounded by muck. (8:4) Would they ever get off the ship? It had been more than a stinking year.

After waiting, Noah sent out a raven, which turned out to be a poor choice. It feasted on plentiful rotting remains and never returned. (8:7) After another week, Noah sent out a dove. Finding nothing to eat, the dove came back. (8:8-9) A week later, the dove was re-released and brought back a fresh olive branch and a sprig of hope since things were beginning to sprout. (8:10-11) After seven more days, the dove was sent out. It found a place to nest and fresh food to eat, so it never returned (8:12).

Around here, it has rained a long time. We keep hoping for a dry spell so planting and other work can get done, but after a couple of days, the rain and puddles return.

We keep sending out doves, but they keep coming back. What do you do when the doves keep coming back?

We pray for dry weather, but it seems like our prayers have not worked.

Paul had what he called "a thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7). The issue that harassed Paul is unknown. He prayed three times that the Lord would remove it, but that affliction was never taken away. (12:8) Paul's response is a beautiful affirmation of faith. God tells him, "My grace is sufficient for you". (12:9)

The dove keeps coming back, and we pray for dry weather. We do not think our prayers work, but God answers, "My grace is sufficient for you".

Is it? Have you gotten to the place where no matter the physical rainstorm nor the metaphorical life storm that God's grace is sufficient to sustain your faith and give you an adequate measure of peace? If not, keep praying. Pray until you pray through and find "the peace of God which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

After de-arking, the first things Noah and his family did were worship and offer sacrifices to the Lord. (Genesis 8:20) The Lord responded with his never-flood-the-earth-again covenant and the first-ever rainbow. (9.13) Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives, oohed and aahed. The beautiful sight filled them with hope, and ever since, the rainbow is a traditional Judeo-Christian symbol of hope.

Several days ago, I saw a rainbow. My heart was inspired as I enjoyed God's gift of beauty. (That is my typical response every time I see a rainbow.)

What do you do when the dove keeps coming back?

I do not want to be simplistic in the midst of crisis. The continual rain and prospects of red numbers on your balance sheet try to push you toward fear, but whether that storm is a physical rainstorm or a metaphorical life storm: Pray, depend upon the Lord's sufficient grace, and keep hope alive!

Encourage others with God's good news.

See you Sunday,



Pastor Brad



June 2019

As most of you know, June 23rd will be my last Sunday here at Liberty Chapel. I feel confident that this is the decision God has led me to, but it is still incredibly difficult to leave this great church. Over my years here, I have been able to build friendships with so many of you and have been able to grow even deeper in my faith. You all have pushed me towards Jesus and shown me what it looks like to live like Jesus. You have loved me so well during my time here (personally and as an employee) and it is something I'm incredibly grateful for. You have gone above and beyond to show that you care for me and you have deeply influenced my life. You have welcomed Marin and I as your own. We are very thankful for our time here and have appreciated all of the moments we've been able to share with you as individuals and as a church family.

For most of June I'm going to be gone on mission trips (June 2-5 is our Jr. High trip and June 8-15 is our Sr. High trip), but I will be around June 16-22. In addition to setting things up for the next youth pastor that comes in and cleaning out my office, I would love to spend that week with you all. If anybody wants to grab lunch or dinner, or just get together that week, let me know, I'd love to get together with you! Marin and I will still be living over in Haskins for at least the next year, and would love to stay in touch with you as we transition in life.

In Christ,

Pastor Tom

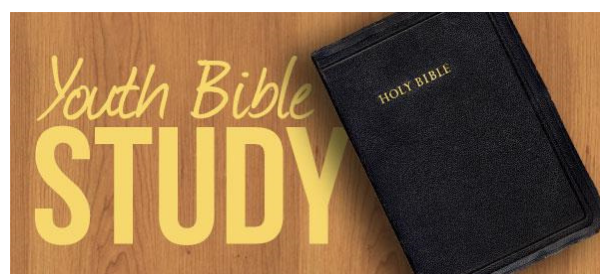


Pastor Brad will be at Annual Conference June 2-6, please be in prayer for the decisions that will be made at conference. Tom and Kara will be on the Jr. High mission trip, so the office will be closed June 3-5. If you need to get a message to Pastor Brad, please contact Carla Gillen at 419-906-0776.



The Jr. & Sr. High students are invited to a barbecue at Tenny and Marci Nash's, June 19th at 6:00 pm. Come and hang out for an evening of food, games, swimming and fellowship. Please bring a side dish to share.

Sr. High students will be starting a Monday night Bible study at Nash's. The first one will be June 24th at 7:00 pm. Join us as we dive into God's word over the summer!!! If you have any questions, please see Tenny or Marci Nash.



June Servant Schedule

	June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23	June 30
8:15 Door Greeters					
8:15 Nursery	K. Mohler Family	Steph & Britt Gillen	C. Carter Family	N. Carter Family	D. Bare Family
S. S. Door Greeters	T. Myers Family				
S.S. Nursery	Conner Family	Barnes Family	Miller Family	J. Gillen Family	Shadday Family
10:30 Door Greeters	T. Myers Family				
10:30 Nursery	Davis Family	Trapp Family	Jerica McBride & Lydia Mack	Estelle Family	Gutierrez Family
Greeters Welcome Center	Cathy Anderson		Roger Saneholtz Family	Shadday Family	Louise Dalton

Prayer
 *Changes things*
Let us pray for you with Faith
Believing
 HE WILL LIFT YOU UP

Family and Friends of Courtney Patton—Courtney passed away May 9th; Delegates at Annual Conference; Jr. & Sr. High mission trips.

Long-Term Needs: Bonnie Mohler—Health Concerns; DeeAnn Shafer—Cancer; Margaret Bollman—Health Concerns; Rebecca Livengood (Vicky Leatherman’s mother) - Health concerns; Ken Silveus; Leo “Bud” Zenz, Kent Spiess, Brady Chapa—Cancer; Connie Cramer (Christy Myers’ mother) - Lymphoma. Also, members of the military and their families, our missionary families.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June	June					1 Terry Hoffman Ken & Jody Lee John & Cara Bowers
2 Ethan Cramer	3 Lane O'Neal	4 Mike & Margaret Whitman Andy & Kelsey Spiess	5 John Bowers	6 Paul & Rachel Amstutz	7 Ben Zientek	8 Ashley Schwarzman Brittany Ruehl Isaac Griteman Emma Tahir
9 Tyler Carpenter Max & Pat Fetterman Ben & Ashley Schwarzman	10 Melanie Oberhaus Tina Tedrow Kendall Spiess Lee Starkey	11 Rebecca Stuhmer John & Dawn Sharpe Earl & Marilyn Spiess	12 Jim Griteman	13 	14 Brenda Hogrefe Dave Mohler Bill & Sharon Sharpe Jordan & Hillary McBride Brady & Caroline Booth	15 Steve Bare Carol Frysinger Earl Spiess
16 Paul & Jennifer Murrey Kevin & Vondra Oberhaus	17 Connor Keller Rick Kessler	18 Dave Sharpe Tom & Cindy Overmier	19 Rachel Amstutz Tahir Masood	20 Tenny & Sue Krugh	21	22 Dave Clapp
23 Hillary McBride Tim Keller Kelsey Spiess	24 Cindy Overmier Jon Leatherman	25 <i>Happy Anniversary!</i>	26 Chinjamba Masuwa James & Laura Case	27 Kurt Davis	28 	29 Susie Miller Nathan & Hannah Kershner
30						If you don't see your birthday or anniversary on the calendar, and you would like it to be on there, please let the office know!! Thanks.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

VBS 2019



Planning has started for VBS!!! VBS will be July 28th—August 1st from 6-8:30 pm. Dinner will be at 5:15 pm. Check your calendars! See Kara if you would like to help! We have lots open spots for you to volunteer. We need your help to make VBS happen!!!!!!

FREEDOM SCHOOL 2019

June 17 - July 26

Do you have a passion for helping others? Have you ever wondered how you can help those most in need in our community? The MWD is in partnership with the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center for Freedom School for the 3rd year in a row and need dozens of helpers! There are a wide variety of areas to get involved in and we want to help you find a way to serve with purpose and joy. Volunteer training sessions will be held on June 11 at 6 pm and June 12 at 11 am. Contact Rae Lynn at rschleif@wocumc.org or 419-897-9770 if you would like to volunteer.



**Freedom
School
Partners**



The Trustees will be having a work day on June 29th. They will be replacing the front awning. Any help would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to help but are unable to come June 29th, please contact Lee Starkey or Randy Bostelman and they will let you know what you can do to help before the 29th.



Sunday Worship Times: 8:15 a.m. (Nursery Provided)
 10:30 a.m. (Nursery Provided)
 9:15 a.m. (Nursery Provided)

Classic Worship
 Praise Celebration
 Classes for All Ages

Sunday School:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7 am Men's Prayer Time
2 Jr. High leaves for Indianapolis	3	4 7 pm LOL	5 Jr. High arrives home	6	7	8 7 am Men's Prayer Time Sr. High leaves for Milwaukee
9	10 6:00 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Ad. Council	11 7 pm SPRC 7 pm LOL	12	13	14 Sr. High arrives home	15 7 am Men's Prayer Time
16 	17 9-10:30 am Bountiful Blessings 6-7:30 pm Bountiful Blessings 7 pm Evangelism	18 7 pm LOL	19 12:00 pm Senior Luncheon 6:00 pm Sr. High Barbecue at Nash's	20	21	22 7 am Men's Prayer Time
23 10:30 am One Worship Service 11:45 pm Church Picnic	24 6:30 pm Missions 7:00 pm Sr. High Bible Study at Nash's	25 7 pm LOL	26	27	28	29 7 am Men's Prayer Time Trustee Work day
30						

Liberty Chapel United Methodist Church

9474 County Road V, Liberty Center, OH 43532

Lead Pastor Dr. Brad Martin Youth Pastor Tom Gerberich

Church Phone 419-533-2881

Church Office Hours M – F 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS – 8:15 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:15 A.M.

E-mail: libertychapel@metalink.net

Web site: Libertychapel.net

*“A body knowing and growing in Christ so deeply that He is
overflowing to others.”*

Return Service Requested

June 2019

