



What's Up Wickliffe!

APRIL 2024

A FLY IN THE OINTMENT

Have you ever heard the saying “A fly in the ointment”? It is actually a reference to **Ecclesiastes 10:1**. “Dead flies turn a perfumer’s oil rancid, so a little foolishness is more potent than wisdom *and* honor.” (NASB).

It is a cold, dark morning as I sit down on the couch with a hot cup of tea; I thank God for the rest He has given me through the night and I ask Him to guide me as I face a challenging day knowing I will need His wisdom and not my own. With a heavy sigh I grab my computer to check my emails. I see that I have quite a few I need to read. As I start to scan through them I notice a message with a video attachment from a Lion Sanctuary. This sanctuary is unique because the lions are free roaming in a natural setting. There are rock vistas and bluffs, trees and grassy plains that span for miles. Also, these lions have very little interaction with people, so they can just be lions. The video showed several lions relaxing in the tall grass, looking very content. As the camera moved across the plain I see a large male lion standing on a ridge looking over his domain. I learned, that this lion is almost 4 feet tall at the shoulders and weighs nearly 500 pounds. His full mane extends down his chest touching the top of his front legs, not only is this a sign of maturity; but, also his leadership within his pride of lions and lionesses.

After standing for a short while this lion settled down to relax, which signaled several of his pride members to come over to him; lowering their heads they lovingly rubbed their faces against his face. These gifts of affection he accepted from each one.

This tender scene warmed my heart, but as the camera focused more closely on his face, I saw the flies. There were flies everywhere! This male lion had flies on his nose, his ears and even around the corners of his eyes. He did not start wildly slapping at the flies with his massive paws or shaking his head, in fact, he did not even seem to notice the flies at all. He simply continued to survey his territory while keeping a watchful eye his pride.

Of course, the flies are nothing in size compared to the lion. They cannot take his position in the pride, they cannot change who he is in relation to the other

lions, at best they are only a small annoyance that the lion simply ignored.

This made me think, why do I let the “fly in the ointment” get to me so much that it ruins my day or makes me angry or worse, it takes my focus off of God. The scripture in Ecclesiastes is saying that a little foolishness or nonsense and our ability to make wise decisions can be ruined. This tiny, little fly can really mess up our day and set a trap for how we react to the challenges we all face. It is difficult to hear and to recognize God’s wisdom when the flies are buzzing around our lives, the nonsense and foolishness clouds our thinking.

Galatians 3:26-29 tells us that as Christians, we are children of the Most High God and that position can NEVER be changed, so we can rest in Him, regardless of the problems and pain in life.

Learning how to look past the flies and respond to life’s challenges with wisdom brings about our maturity in our walk with God; and that is place where God wants us to dwell.

I want to be like that lion looking out at the world, content and strong in my faith; regardless of what flies might land on me.

Jennifer Mobbs, faithwriters.com

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APRIL SCHEDULE

- April 7 2nd Sunday of Easter
- April 14 3rd Sunday of Easter
 ♦ Support Meeting
- April 21 4th Sunday of Easter
- April 28 5th Sunday of Easter



April 21 Kerry Schneider



April 17 Al and Bev Bagoly

April 18 Paul and Georgia Velly

Church Office Hours:

Monday - 9:00am - 12:00pm

Tuesday - Closed

Wednesday - Closed

Thursday - 9:00am - 12:00pm

Friday - Closed

(Hours may vary. Please contact the office for an appointment if you need in the church)

Church Website: www.wickliffepc.com

Secretary's Email: wickliffepc@gmail.com

Wickliffe Presbyterian Church

45 Idlewood Rd.

Austintown, OH 44515

P: 330-792-6441 F: 330-792-1006

TLCC Daycare and Preschool

Director, Norma Johnson

330-792-9048



2024 Per Capita remains \$32.50. Per Capita information flyers are available at the church.



IN STEP WITH SESSION

Session met on Tuesday, March 19th, with the majority of our Elders present.

Meta moderated our Session. We need to keep Meta in our prayers as she is going to have knee replacement surgery on April 22nd in Salem. Please keep her in your prayers. Annie Parker from Heritage Presbyterian will be moderating our Session meeting in April.

As we moved forward with our discussion the following items were brought to the table:

**Nancy read an article entitled: "Small Church Options Presentation" to be held at Heritage on Wednesday, April 24th, from 6-8. The Session plans to attend. If anyone is interested, Please contact Nancy. We are going to carpool. I have sent in a reservation for our Church.*

**TLCC is having difficulty with staffing call offs. The upcoming events will be held: Mothers day Celebration-May 10th and Graduation Ceremony on May 22nd.*

**The Growth Committee headed by Donna Cooper is planning on hosting a trip to The Rescue Mission, Butler Art Institute and a Service at Needles Eye during this summer. Donna would like your input on any activities for future trips etc. Please let Donna know if anything comes to mind.*

**We have purchased 10 new tables for fellowship hall. Session has decided to sell the old tables. An announcement will be made on which ones are available and the price we are asking.*

**Our pledges are down and we are asking those who contribute to think of increasing your pledge on occasion to help defray issues as our bottom line is not where we would hope it to be. Jeff Bryant is doing his best to make repairs as needed, but our building is old and issues multiply. Please pray on ways that we can all work together to help our Church in the near future. Remember, we can not afford a full-time pastor and the money we have on hand won't even cover a part time person. Help!!!*

**We will be having another shared Worship Service on May 19th at Wickliffe with Hubbard. No food provided but this is the same day that the Deacons will be having their Ice Cream Social. We'll invite Hubbard to join in this special outreach. We are hoping that our congregation will show up in full force as we support our Deacon ministry.*

Please let our Session know if you have any concerns that we can address. We are holding our own but you are our priority and we work for you.

Blessings, Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session



DEACON NEWS!

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR
MAY 19, 2024**

DEACONS ICE CREAM SOCIAL LUNCHEON

The Deacons will be having their annual Ice Cream Social on May 19, 2024 immediately following worship. The First Presbyterian Church of Hubbard will be sharing worship with us that day and are definitely invited to attend our luncheon. There will be a free will offering taken to help support the Deacon missions. We will be serving hotdogs, baked beans, pickles, potato chips, potato salad, ice cream with all the toppings and cookies that will be donated from our wonderful women of Wickliffe! Please come with an appetite and join us in fellowship and fun. Hope to see you on May 19. Please support the Deacons.
Happy Spring!

In Christian love,
The Deacons of Wickliffe Presbyterian

Needle's Eye Soup Ministry

Thank you, thank you WPC for all your donations in February and March! Please consider bringing in regular size cans of beans, soup or jars of peanut butter to bring big smiles to many elderly people who have more month than money to keep enough provisions on their shelves! Thank you!

Donna Cooper



**GOODTIMERS will meet Wednesday,
April 3rd at 11:30 AM at
Denny's on Mahoning Ave.
~Grace Brown**

**DISCOVERY GROUP will meet Tuesday,
April 30th at 12:30 PM at the church.**

~ Grace Brown

A PRAYER FOR PEACE



Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true King of peace. In You alone is found freedom. Please free our world from conflict, especially in the Mideast and Ukraine. Bring unity to troubled nations. Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart. Dispel all darkness and evil. Protect the dignity of every human life. Replace hatred with Your love. Give wisdom to world leaders. Free them from selfish ambition. Eliminate all violence and war. Glorious Virgin Mary, Saint Michael the Archangel, every angel and saint: please pray for peace. Pray for unity amongst nations. Pray for unity amongst all people. Pray for the most vulnerable. Pray for those suffering. Pray for the fearful. Pray for those most in need. Pray for us all. Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on us. Jesus, hear our prayers. Jesus, I trust in You! Amen.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

announcing

MAY FRIENDSHIP SERVICE DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024

THEME: "LOVE MERCY" Matthew 5:7

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
323 Wick Ave.
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

REGISTRATION 10:30 am
SERVICE 11:00 am
Luncheon to Follow: FEAST OF SALADS

Donation \$15.00 OR bring a salad for \$10.00

Registration Form Due: FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

MAIL TO: Donna Cooper 1003 Collins Ave. Austintown, OH 44515
Phone: 330-799-0190 or 330-651-3253

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____

TYPE OF SALAD _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____






HIRING CUSTODIAN

**Reach out to Nancy O'Hara
330-799-7577**

**Looking for someone who can
work at least 8 hours per week.**

**Will discuss areas of Church to
be addressed at interview.**

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  April Fool's day	2	3 11:30 AM Goodtimers Denny's 4927 Mahoning Ave.	4 5:45 PM Tops	5	6
7 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	8	9	10	11 5:45 PM Tops	12	13
14 10:00 AM Worship Service Support Mtg. 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	15	16 Session at 6:00 PM	17	18 5:45 PM Tops	19	20
21 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	22  EARTH DAY Newsletter Deadline	23	24	25 5:45 PM Tops	26  Church Women United St. John's Episcopal Church 11:00 AM	27
28 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	29	30 12:30 PM Discovery Group-WPC				