

# The Vine

## From Pastor Doug....

*Stepping in Faith: Responding to God's Generosity* is the theme for this year's Generosity emphasis as we plan for ministry in 2018 at the UMC of Mantua. It is an expression of what we believe should happen when God's people are asked to respond in a Biblical manner to the ministry opportunities of the church.

We have a newly formed Generosity Team and we are excited about the opportunity to respond to what God has done for us. When we have talked about Stewardship in previous years, we have focused primarily on receiving enough to cover the budget. This year, and in the years to come, we will be providing a means by which we as God's people can grow and respond in faith.

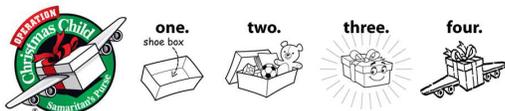
As we enter this season of the year, prayer is the key. We will be giving you the opportunity to use a devotional guide throughout this season that will help to focus your praying. There are people in our church who will commit to responding to God's generosity for the first time. There are others who may be able to grow one or two steps. Others may be able to grow more than that. Your response is indeed personal. It's not how someone else will respond or what the church needs you to do. The issue is what you need to do in order to respond in generosity to what God has done for you. There are many exciting ministry opportunities in our church. Will you take the next step in faith with us?

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES:** It's that time of year again – Christmas is coming – actually it is a little over three months away – but it means that it is time to start filling our shoe boxes. It's a good time to start because school supplies are on sale and they are great items to be included in the shoe boxes. Please note that CANDY and TOOTHPASTE have been added to the "Do Not Include List." The total Do Not Include List is as follows: Candy, toothpaste, used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powder or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans. If you are unsure about any items, you can check with a JUG member or check out Samaritan's Purse's website.

An easy guideline to follow is to fill your shoebox with simple gifts, as follows: something to wear; something to play with; something for school; something to love; something special; something for personal hygiene and a personal note. Always remember to pray for the recipient.

There was also another change this year. In years past, it was suggested to include a \$7.00 donation for cost of shipping. This amount has been increased to \$9.00. However, if you cannot include the cost of shipping but want to fill a box, please do so because others who for one reason or another who cannot fill a box prefer to make a donation to help with shipping. Working together we are able to successfully support this outreach to the children of the world in the love of Jesus.

We will be collecting these shoeboxes during the month of October. Our goal, as it has been in years past, is to get at least one more shoe box than we did last year. With your help we can continue to spread God's love to these little children. Thank you so much for your support.



**Military Support Group of NJ:** A donation box will be available during the month of November for items for our troops and their families.

Athletes Foot Cream/ointment  
Batteries AA & AAA  
Beef Jerky  
Black Pens & Pencils  
Cashews  
Coffee, Tea Bags small boxes  
Comics from Sunday Papers  
Crackers, small packages  
Crossword or Sudoku Puzzles  
Diaper Wipes  
(please put the whole package in a one gallon size Ziploc)  
Disposable Cameras  
DVD Movies (no war movies, please)  
Eye Drops  
Flip Flops of shower  
Foot Powder, travel size  
Granola or Power Bars  
Gum  
Hand cream, travel size  
Hand Warmers

Hard Candy  
Individual Drink Mixes  
Lysol or Clorox Wipes  
Mixed Nuts  
Music CDs  
Peanut Butter Cracker packs  
Peanuts  
Pepperoni Sticks  
Playing Cards, Uno, small games  
Qtips travel size  
Shampoo travel size  
Slim Jims  
Small Writing Tablet & Envelopes  
Soap hotel size bars  
Sunflower Seeds & Nuts  
Toothpaste, travel size  
Trail Mix  
Tuna, Salmon, Chicken, Spam in foil pouches  
White Cotton Socks boot style



**MTV Painless Fundraiser**  
**Buy Shop Rite (\$20) Cards The Church receives 5%**  
**You receive gift cards dollar for dollar. It costs you nothing!**

***Where does the money go? It pays for some of the equipment needs of MTV. In addition, contributions have been made to UMC Mission Trips and The Waterproofing Fund.***

**Goal:** We have a goal of **\$1,000 per week**. This is easily achievable! We managed to achieve it 2 weeks in 2016! If we only had 50 families that shop at Shop Rite and each family bought one card per week, that would be \$1,000. The church would earn **\$2,600 per year**. **When we meet this goal, MTV would not only be mostly self-supporting, we would also be able to make larger contributions for other church needs.**

**Action:** LET'S DO IT! Exchange your cash or check for Shop Rite gift cards and go food shopping for your family or donate cards to The Corinthian Cupboard or Family Promise! It costs nothing but reaps great rewards!

**Keep up the Good Work!**

2015 1st Quarter  
\$455 per week

2015 2nd Quarter  
\$337 per week

2015 3rd Quarter  
\$434 per week

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**  
**Bruce Reyher, MTV Treasurer**

A few months ago, Pam Baitinger asked me for prayer shawls for a co-worker and her daughter, Kelsey, who requires frequent shots for an on-going medical issue. Her mother blogs frequently about their situation and I asked if it would be okay with them to share their experiences with all of you. Since we dedicated new prayer shawls and baptismal blankets during worship on September 17, I thought this was a good month to share a couple of Kelsey's blogs.

And Kelsey and Mom, please know that you are thought of often, praying that the shawls will continue to bring you both some comfort and peace. God bless.

Kathy Durand

## **WARM SENTIMENTS OF THE SHAWL**

Warmth. When someone is so genuine and kind, sometimes it brings me to tears.

I had that experience tonight. A colleague that I have known for a few years, one who ALWAYS lends a kind word or beaming smile, stopped by my office. She asked for my permission to give me a gift for Kelsey through her church ministry. She described the ministry, and I was touched. The sentiment was genuine and kind.

The next day, she delivered two prayer shawls. I did not even have time to process the gesture when she dropped the bag off to me, nor did I look closely at the contents. As I left for the day, I smiled as I read the tags, full of joy.

However, when I came home and shared the shawl with Kelsey, together we put them on and both burst into tears. We were truly overcome with a presence and a connection that words cannot explain. The adult size is a purple hue that matches our foundation's logo exactly. I actually had chills when I gently removed it from the bag. The tiny-version is a lighter shade for Kelsey. They are simply beautiful.

Kelsey said that she had never felt so warm and just did "not know what to say over a gift like this." Nor do I Kelsey...

These intricate shawls feel like a blessing and a warm hug when you surround your shoulders with them. Hopefully, Kels is watched a little more closely now with this draped in her room. She wants to wear hers every night and pray that her needles go away.

I will do the same.

To the ministry and the thoughtfulness of a wonderful woman, words enough do not say thank you. However, I will say them anyway, thank you!

## **COMFORT**

There are a few moments when you break down with strength, belief, and hope simultaneously. Today, I broke down with all three. It was quite the trifecta.

Recently, Kelsey has been curious about selecting the location for her shot. She "picks the spot" and seems to feel a bit more at ease by having a say in the process. She takes her clean, tiny finger and touches various areas. She tries to find just the right one. Unfortunately, the spots have been difficult to locate anymore as her skin texture feels rough and more difficult to pierce. The mornings have been a little bit more difficult (as one may imagine) for her to bear as a result.

Tuesday evening, I walked into Kelsey's room to find her fast asleep, snuggling with her prayer shawl instead of her typical rotating stuffed doll. She took it upon herself to find comfort with it. It was a bit overwhelming to see. I wondered if she prayed for an easy Wednesday because it is a day she fears all week long.

So I asked her about it in the morning and wondered if she remembered taking the shawl before she fell asleep.

Her response was so matter-of-fact, "Yes. I have been praying for my needle to stop every night. I really want them to stop, Mom."

As do I...

This Wednesday's injections were among the most challenging we have faced in a long time. Kelsey shrieked and then she wept. Her Daddy's arms gave little comfort as she screamed at an ear piercing level. In true Kelsey form, she wailed an apology for selecting such a "bad spot" two times in a row.

I screamed my own thoughts silently, but they were certainly not directed at my baby girl

Tonight, I walked into Kelsey's room to find her sleeping on top of the shawl. This time, she was not holding it. Rather, she carefully and neatly placed it over her pillow and slept soundly atop it.

The sweet image of her dreaming upon the shawl gave me a certain sense of calm, a certain renewal of belief.

I can only hope that her dreams were as serene as she appeared and that her prayers will be answered.

*Hello from The EONS and Happy October!*

*News from The EONS - we are very happy to be worshipping outside these past two weeks and we will continue to do so the first two weeks of October.*

*Please join us and invite someone you feel may enjoy this experience or is looking for a church home.*

*We will be outside on the lawn praising Jesus on Sunday October 1st and Sunday October 8th.*

*We hope to see you there!!!*

*As promised in our message last month below please read the bio of Pam Runyan.*

## *Bio for Pam Runyan – Vocalist*



Pam was born and raised in Mantua, NJ. She is a graduate of Clearview Regional HS, class of 1977. Pam raised her two children in Mantua and she has been employed with US Foods for over 18 years. Pam loves to sing. She has been singing since she could talk. Music means a lot to Pam and singing brings much joy to her. Pam sang in high school and in her senior year she was accepted into the elite Vocal Ensemble where she had the opportunity to sing with a select group of peers and traveled throughout the district to sing for others. Besides singing, Pam loves spending time with her two children and her four grandchildren.

Pam was baptized in the Mantua Methodist Church. This church has been her only home and she has been involved in so many ministries. She attended Sunday school (nursery through adult), the youth group, the senior choir and the praise band. At one point Pam sang in both the senior choir and the praise band. Pam always had Christ in her life and she would like to see more people accept Christ and walk with Him, to grow and become more like Him.

### **Please Join Us!**

The 11:00 am Praise Worship service will be held on the lawn, weather permitting of course. Chairs will be available, but if you would prefer to bring a blanket or your own lawn chairs, please do. If it is raining, we will worship in the sanctuary.

October 1st

October 8th



United Methodist Church of Mantua - Family Fun 9th Annual Event

# TRUNK OR TREAT

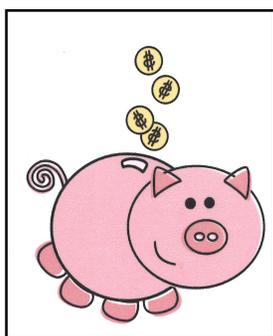
Free, Fun and Open to the Community! Food, Games & Crafts DJ & Dancing Children's Costume Parade Trunk Decoration Contest & More!



Saturday, October 28th  
6:00 - 8:30pm

UMC of Mantua Parking Lot  
201 Mantua Blvd. Mantua

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SIGN UP AS A TRUNKER  
PLEASE SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: FAMILYFUN MANTUA  
OR CONTACT KIMBERLY WAGNER 856.265.1534



## Savearound Books

The J.U.G. class will once again offer Savearound Coupon Books during the month of October. Savearound Coupon Books have coupons for both national retailers and local restaurants, services, and entertainment. Once you purchase the book, the coupons can be activated and kept on a free app you download to your phone! Don't delay, these Savearound Coupon Books make great Christmas Presents!

# Happy Birthday!

- 2 Debra Wescott
- 3 Florence Bobzin  
Steve Fearon  
Todd Hickman  
Debbie Wolf
- 4 Kelsey Eckert  
Rebecca Hickman  
Jim Jameson
- 5 Patrick Brooks
- 6 Jennifer Humble
- 7 Laylah Farrell  
Michael Tyson Jr.
- 8 Ethan Munch  
Susan Sullivan
- 9 Laura Freshcoln
- 10 Heather Riggs  
Ruth Wolbert
- 12 Abigail Joseph  
Joe Spencer
- 13 Lois Green  
Kimberly Metz  
Eric Rumbol  
Dalton Stetser  
Jillian Vincent



- 14 Michelle Biglin  
Hope Miller  
Samantha Skupien
- 15 Doug Baitinger  
Liz Gross  
Marissa Torino
- 17 John Goss  
Patrick Goss  
Paul Toppin
- 18 Monica Seabo
- 19 Ted Dorofee  
Kayla Romano
- 20 Joanne Pape
- 23 Courtney Hall  
Sadie Richards  
Carl Wyckoff
- 24 Amanda Heise
- 25 Mary Golding
- 26 Adriene Davis  
Sean Sepsey
- 27 Lorraine Beckett
- 30 Anthony Prete
- 31 Joshua Jennings  
Wilma Nagtegaal  
Mark Thompson Jr.

## Happy Anniversary

- 2 Ian & Emily Preece
- 3 Joe & Chris Seabo
- 4 William Bessler & Darlene Smith
- 7 Bruce & Nancy Reyher
- 10 Scott & Kristie McMullen
- 11 Todd & Debra Heston
- 14 Len & Doris Donat



- 20 Curt & Lynn Bobzin  
Dan & Debbie Gooch  
Joel & Dawn Shutman
- 23 Doug & Jenn Wardrop
- 24 George & Adriene Davis
- 26 Fred & Mary Lee Patane  
Doug & Kim Wagner
- 29 Joe & Robin Gelormini
- 30 John & Tara Gallagher

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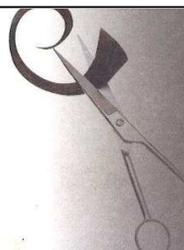
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