

The Vine

Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company, and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported lying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide."¹

Join us in worship the next few weeks as we continue a sermon series entitled *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the "American Nightmare." Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us "you deserve it now," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why, over the next weeks, we will be having an emphasis during worship called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship. We'll hear expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial challenges. Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

At the conclusion of the emphasis, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will consecrate these commitments in the worship service on two consecutive Sundays (see the schedule that follows).

I hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

Schedule of Events:

October 26	When Dreams Become Nightmares
November 2	Wisdom and Finance
November 16	Cultivating Contentment
November 23	Defined by Generosity
November 30	Consecration Sunday 1
December 7	Consecration Sunday 2
December 14	Celebration Sunday – Results Celebration and Consecration of Next Year's Ministry Commitments

Pastor Doug

¹ "Eight Out of Ten Americans Stressed Because of Economy," by Madison Park, from CNN.com, October 7, 2008; <http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/conditions/10/07/economic.stress/index.html>.



TEDDY BEAR TIME

It's time to start buying your teddy bears for our annual carol sing. Remember that it must be a **teddy bear** (no other stuffed animals will be distributed), and only **new** ones will be taken on our visit. **Teddy Bear Sunday will be on November 9th**, so be ready for them to be collected during the service that day.



October, 2014, Mantua Methodist Vine

By William M. Crowley, Educational Research Director

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV), "Study to show thyself approved unto GOD..."

This exciting, unending series researches the KJV Bible with other sources.

Why Follow the Goat?

HISTORY. Pharaohs did enjoy hunting wild goats native to the mountains. Thutmose IV especially enjoyed the hunts as a poem from *The Sphinx Stela* states. Goats, while economically unimportant to sedentary Egyptians, meant survival for their nomadic neighbors.

EGYPTIAN GOAT WORSHIP. Ptah, the Egyptian legendary creator god, existed before all things. Superior to all the pagan gods, his thoughts, supposedly, created the world. The goat-image Ba was his symbol. Mendes (Djedet), goat-worship's only major center, attributed powers of fertility---and magic to Ba of the Lord of Djedet. Legend claims Ba fathered Rameses III. His funeral included embalmed goats.

ENTER PAN THE GREEK GOD. The god Pan, of Greek Mythology, had horns and other goat attributes. His ancient name *paein* (meaning to pasture) was a fertility god of the wild. The Romans adopted (one of their many bad habits) Pan as *Faunus*---also the god of spring and fertility.

THE BIBLICAL LEVITICUS SIN OFFERING. In Leviticus two (2) goats are used: one is sacrificed on the altar and the second released. Leviticus 16:21, "And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel,..." This sin-bearing goat, symbolizing all vile things in life, is released into the wild. In the NT, reference is made separating sheep from the goats---the good from the bad.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR. The Knights Templar worshipped a goat image--- the Baphomet aka The Sabbatic Goat of Satanic Ritual. Punishment, burning alive chained between two stakes, failed to eradicate attraction. Today, many are still tempted by gains. Which raises a question: With so much Evil, what is the full capacity of Hell?

CONSIDER THIS: Hell is still there. Ignoring it will not lower the temperature 1 Degree.

Isaiah 14:9, "Hell from beneath is moved to thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth: it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations."

Isaiah 14:11, "Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee."

Isaiah 14:12, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!"

NOTE: DO NOT LET IT GET YOUR GOAT. THINK COOL.

Teaching Sunday- School for 6+ years revealed omissions in some class studies. In Ray Edwards's Teen Class many years ago, a student questioned, "What do a lot of guys running around in bathrobes and sandals have to do with us?" Obviously, learning is not achieved without realization of, "What can it do for me?" Message impact lessens with retelling. This series intends to put action in the words, flesh on the characters---and their lives. Paul wrote from prison; his messenger faced possible imprisonment. Moses assumed equal credit for GOD's work; "We" give you this water." Goliath **fell forward**; the stone dropped into his leg armor. They were alive, loved, bled, failed as we do. We dig more deeply. History's dust surrenders facts. Did Goliath die twice? Were Canaanite festivals savage? Jewels of knowledge are our goal. Our quest goes on.



THE UNITED METHODIST MEN'S 23RD ANNUAL

CRAFT FAIR

NOVEMBER 29TH

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM





We will be hosting for the 4th and final time for 2014 the week of November 16. We are sharing the week with the Episcopal Church in Wenonah. They will take 3 days. As of today we have 4 families, 4 mothers and 6 children that is always subject to change. Please prayerfully consider volunteering. The sign up board will be in the Narthex. Thank you!



The Acolytes will be taking a trip to a corn maze on November 2. We will meet at 1:30 pm in the church parking lot to go to McCann's in Monroeville. The cost is \$8.00 per person for snack, hayride, pumpkin picking, and corn maze. (\$3.00 for adults if you don't want a pumpkin).

There will also be an Acolytes meeting on November 23 at 5:30 pm here at the church.

The Coffee House
at Mantua UMC Welcomes
DEZ CHILDS

Friday
November 21st
7:30pm
Free Admission
Free Coffee,
Tea,
Baked Goods!

Dez's songs come from a very personal place, a place she is willing to share with others in hopes that it might encourage others to seek God and make Him Lord of their lives.

Check out www.mantuaumc.org for more info or email mamakreh@gmail.com

Donations of Baked Goods Gratefully Accepted. Call Maria if you can help.

REALVILLE UPDATE – 10/22/14

Time reminder.... College Bible Study from 6:00 to 7:00 pm and 7:00 to 8:30 for Realville

I would like to first say Thank you to the church members and youth parents for asking me back this year!! I have sent home Registration forms, Youth Group Calendar, Trunk or Treat and forms for Mid-Winter Advance. If you did not any of the forms from your Youth – call me at 856-404-2080 and let me know. We are trying to get Registration forms back so we can get an accurate account of how many Youth we have attending – our guess is close to 40!!! If your Youth has plans on attending the Mid-Winter Advance in February 6-8, 2015 – your forms must be filled out and back to me by 11/30/13. The form must be accompanied by a check (made out to Mid-Winter Advance) of \$35.00 per Youth for the trip. Our 7th – 12th graders and our College Bible Study group are planning to go to MWA together this year. Please contact me if you have any questions.

We will be trying to meet at Barnsboro for the month of November. I would like to have some of our youth become pen pals with some of our Troup's. I would like to start with the 10 graders and older as a trial run. Please let me know what your thoughts on them being pen pals. I am waiting word from Pitman UMC about another night of volleyball – I hope to add that to the November schedule.

We will be meeting at Mantua for December. Please mark your calendars.... 12/13 - We are planning to take the Youth Group to the Neighborhood Center in Camden. Families are welcome to come with us.

Coming Soon!
Advent Sermon Series
It's a Wonderful Life!



Happy November Birthday

- 1 Sue Seibel
- 4 Scott Lisle
Elizabeth Rossi
- 5 John Gallagher
Rebecca Holman
Richard Sullivan Jr.
Tom Whitcraft
- 6 Paige Steckclair
- 8 Michael DiSalvio
Alex Fischer-Horner
Timothy Makaro
Cole Reyher
Kevin Sullivan Jr.
- 9 Ted Parks
- 10 Shirley Crawford
Heather Kohl
- 12 Mehgan Holman
- 13 Brandon Szychoski
- 14 Tyler Baitinger
Jasmine Dickson
Dillion Hanahan
Andrea Shute
- 16 George Freshcoln



- 19 Dan Niewoehner
- 20 Anthony String Jr.
- 21 Wayne Eckert
Ann Newcomb
Doug Wagner
- 23 Chase Mack
Dan Smith Jr.
Carolyn Williams
- 24 Michelle Brickner
Aidan Fuchs
Ann Raranta
Tucker Reyher
- 26 Frankie Rohrman
- 27 John DeGirolamo
Melanie LaBonte
Heather Szychoski
- 28 Stacie Toppin
- 29 Matthew Heston
- 30 Debbie Hickman

Happy November Anniversary



- 1 Mark & Kathy Durand
- 4 George & Arlene Shute
- 22 Rich & Billie Ann Ingram
- 24 Walt & Lisa Rouh
- 28 Jeff & Karisa Wescott

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 26th at 7:30 pm
At Woodbury Heights Presbyterian Church



Dear Pastor Doug and friends,

The JOSHUA season at Urban Mission has come to a close, but your group's visit this past summer is still very close to our heart.

What a blessing it was to have your team visit this summer! While you were here, did you know your group performed over 700 hours of service? Wow!

Thank you for making the trip to Steubenville to serve some of our community's most vulnerable.

I had such a fun time working the Back to School Bash with you. Looking back it is quite obvious we could not have pulled off the event without your group. You were such a blessing to me and to so many others!

You'll also be happy to know we are currently making the much needed repairs to the JOSHUA House. Once the renovation are complete, we'll send you an update.

In the meantime, may God bless you for your service to the kids of Mantua. You are a blessing to many!

In His Service,

Ashley (a fellow United Methodist!)

Rev. Ashley Steele



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! 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!

The Average Weekly Gift Card Purchases—Keep up the Good Work!

2014 1st Quarter \$558

2014 2nd Quarter \$427

2014 3rd Quarter \$357

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

Are You Willing to Share Your Gift?

As some of you may have heard, we are unexpectedly in the position of needing to add new members to our praise band for the 11 o'clock service. We would like to invite anyone who would like to share their gift of music to join Maria, Curt, and Pam. Specifically, we are looking for a guitarist, bass guitarist, and keyboard player. There is also the possibility of adding some vocalists and other musicians as well. What is required? A willingness to learn and grow, commitment for rehearsal and Sunday morning, and most importantly, a love for the Lord and desire to serve. If you would like more information or are interested, please see Pastor Doug, Maria Kreh, Curt Bobzin, or Pam Runyan.

Small Group Meetings

Small Group meets on
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
at The Miller's and on
Wednesdays 7:00 pm
at The Hestand's
Come see what it's all about!



SUNDAY NIGHT LIFE

November 16 at
6:00 pm

Six Key Financial Principles

to Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

1. Put God first in your living and giving. (*2 Corinthians 9:6-7*)
2. Prepare a spending plan and track all expenses monthly.
(*Proverbs 27:23-24*)
3. Simplify your lifestyle; live below your means. (*Matthew 6:19-33*)
4. Provide immediately for an emergency fund. (*1 Timothy 6:9-12*)
5. Pay off all credit card debt and use cash, not credit cards.
(*Proverbs 22:7*)
6. Practice long-range saving and investing habits. (*Luke 14:28*)

We are going to be discussing these principles during our current sermon series. This is a copy for you to use at home. Read the scriptures and discuss the ideas with your family.



I know that all of us have experienced the love of God, some in big ways and some in small ways, but always the experience strengthens you. I believe if we share our stories, it will help us keep God in our daily lives. Last month Pastor Doug shared one of his experiences and I am hoping you will be encouraged to share your experiences too. You can be anonymous if you're shy or be known. All you have to do is write it down and give it to or email it to Becky Langer (office@mantuaumc.org).

The United Methodist Church of Mantua

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Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Boxes Collected

33

Please keep those boxes coming in! Empty shoeboxes and literature have been placed throughout the Church. Shoeboxes will be collected until November 17! So far we have collected 33 boxes. We still need to collect 121 to meet our goal! Your support is needed and very much appreciated!

Gail Slimm for the JUG Class



Become a Member of UMC Market!

1. Signup at UMCMarket.org
2. Enter the name of your UMC church or organization (search for Mantua)
3. Browse through all our categories and choose to shop from our hundreds of stores.

Every time you shop the stores will donate a portion of your purchase back to your selected UMC church or organization. Make sure to log in before going to the stores and to have an empty shopping cart before you start to shop. Also, you need to complete your purchase within 24 hours to be eligible for a donation.

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