

First Quarter Events



January 1<sup>st</sup> - Happy New Year!

January 6<sup>th</sup> - No Heart to Heart meeting

January 24<sup>th</sup> - Seniors Covered Dish at 11 am

January 31<sup>st</sup> - Dinner at the church to choose new care groups - current care group leaders will guide their groups as to the foods to bring - meets at 6 pm

February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Heart to Heart Craft and Soup Night

February 28<sup>th</sup> - Seniors Covered Dish at 11 am

March 2<sup>nd</sup> - No Heart to Heart meeting

March 18<sup>th</sup> - Friendship Banquet - see Laura Riggs if you can help with the banquet - tickets go on sale Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>.

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A big "Thank You!" goes out to all those that purchased or made cookies this year for our cookie trays. They looked beautiful and having the extra bakers made all the difference. There was a larger assortment of cookies, and all was ever so yummy! Again, thank you all so very much! The cookie tray sales this year was a great success thanks to you all.



Now that we finally have regular toddlers and babies in our Nursery I and Nursery II, we need to reactivate a rotating team of nursery workers like we had before Covid. We also have children not just on Sunday morning but on Wednesday night as well. Our normal way was to have a team of two adult ladies' team up to work in the nursery during the Sunday morning 10:30 am service and the same on Wednesday night. There are young ladies that volunteer their help to keep up with the active little ones. The Sunday morning 9:45 Sunday School session is already covered. If we get enough ladies to work, it will only mean working the nursery about once per month. If you are willing to work there, find a friend to partner with and let LeuAnna Taylor (330-815-1842) or Audrey Rodgers know. We would like to get this scheduled and in place for the beginning of the new year. So, think about it and please volunteer your time.

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**A prayer about PEACE**

Lord,  
Today I need your peace that transcends my understanding. My mind is racing, and anxiety threatens to overwhelm me. Fill me with your peace and calm my heart. Remind me that you are with me always.

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

John 16:33

365 Pocket Prayers for Mothers

## The Happiness Journey

*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

James 1:2-4

We try to convince ourselves that life will be better after we finish school, land that great job, get married, or start a family. But then we're frustrated because the children are too young to allow us to do everything we want to, and we think that we'll be happier when they get older. Suddenly, we have teenagers to deal with, and we wish they would hurry up and get past that stage. We're sure that will make us happier.

We tell ourselves that our life will be better when we get a new car, buy a bigger house, and take that cruise we've always wanted to take. By then we've wished our youth away, and we tell ourselves that things will be perfect when we retire.

The truth is, there's no better time to enjoy your life than right at this moment. God tells us that our lives will always be filled with challenges and trials. It's the way we react to these circumstances that makes the difference. Decide to be happy, no matter what.

Alfred D. Souza once said: "For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin – real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way, something to be gotten through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life."

Be happy with today while you plan for tomorrow. Happiness is the way, not the objective, so treasure every moment that you have. Spend your time with the ones you love.

Happiness is a journey, not a destination. God does not give us an infinite number of days – or nights – on this earth, so decide to spend each one in a way that pleases Him.

Through the Night with God  
Meditations to End Your Day God's Way  
Mirlinda Boja  
Adapted from *After Hours Inspirational Stories*  
December 1998

## Turtle Cake

by Audrey Rogers

1 German Chocolate Cake Mix (18.25 oz)  
14 oz individually wrapped caramels  
1 5 oz can evaporated milk  
¾ cup butter  
1 cup chopped pecans  
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips



Lightly grease a 9 x 13 pan or Bundt pan

Mix cake mix according to the package directions. Pour a little less than ½ of the batter into the prepared pan. Bake 15 minutes and remove from the oven. Melt caramels, butter, and milk in microwave on high (takes 10 minutes), stirring a couple of times. (Or melt in saucepan on medium heat). Pour melted caramel mixture over cake, sprinkle with pecans and chocolate chips, then remaining batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-35 minutes.

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Maybe you have prayed for that dream job, house, car, kids, cancer to be gone, answers to some health concerns. Just maybe you were like Charlie Brown and ran full speed at that football with blind faith. Then, at the last-minute Lucy pulled it away. Good grief. God isn't pulling that football from y'all. He loves you more than you can think. I've been there, still in those moments. I understand. But, listen my friend, I am right there with you in that ditch. When it is pouring down rain and God seems invisible more than ever you can trust this truth: He is still at work. In the doctor's office or in the interview. Yes he is still working. We have to look for His grace. It seems impossible. But, trust me grace always shows up. Maybe you've seen it when you move or driving that new car. Sometimes the dust will settle long before you see His fingerprints, keep looking you'll see that He's there. The thing is, when you pray, you can count on the fact that God is going to answer. It may be in a way that you never expected.

M.K. Backstrom  
Submitted by Laura Riggs

## Marcie's Book Corner

Winter in Ohio makes me long for comfort foods from my childhood, like Grandma's sour cherry pie with cherries I helped pick from her tree and my mom's amazing mustard pickles which I still make in the same crock she used. If you love food, & who doesn't 😊, the city of Akron and its history, this book is a must read. The book is entitled: ***Akron Family Recipes*** (*History and Traditions from Sauerkraut Balls to Sweet Potato Pie*) by local **author, Judy Orr James.**

From Akron's founding in 1825, numerous ethnic and cultural groups made Akron home. Judy extensively researched the most populated 10 groups for this book, which are Appalachian and southern, African American, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Polish and Serbian. She highlights how and when each group came to Akron, ie. the first Irishmen came to Akron in 1825 to work on the Ohio and Erie canal after having completed New York's Erie canal. The author then tells where they lived and why. She says: *"To house its growing workforce, Firestone and Goodyear created Firestone Park and Goodyear Heights, building modest homes that were affordable for the average worker. While many of Akron's southern transplants moved into these homes, a good number also settled in the neighborhoods in and around Ellet, Lakemore and Springfield Township."*

Church life played a major part in the immigrants' lives. They brought their religious traditions with them, establishing many churches. From her photos, I recognize the beautiful buildings, but never knew their history.

Moving onto clubs and organizations started by the immigrants, there are so many, I'll let you read those on your own!

Last but not least, are the restaurants and food businesses. One we all might know is *DeVitis and Sons Italian Market* on E. Talmage Ave. What's not to love there! She reveals the history of *Parasson's*, *The Brown Derby*, *MiJo's House of Paprikash*, *Rockne's*, and *Lou and Hy's*, just to name a few, but the list is endless.

Now for the yummy part! The recipes included are from people who want them to be passed down and never forgotten. Happy eating, and reminiscing & a blessed new year!

The book is available on the web at Amazon and other websites, and at your local library or bookstore. That title again is:

**Akron Family Recipes** (*History and Traditions from Sauerkraut Balls to Sweet Potato Pie*) by local **author, Judy Orr James.**; published by American Palate; (c) 2022.

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

## Marcie's Bonus Book

*He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.*

Psalm 147:16

Well, it's here!!! It's the time of year that I enjoy a cup of hot tea, a warm blanket, and a good book, as the snow quietly covers everything in white.

Have you ever read a book that the characters are people you recognize, streets and businesses that trigger memories in your mind, because you've driven on that same street and have dined in the same restaurant mentioned?

A thriller fiction series, *Evil Threats* by a master storyteller from our own backyard, will give you suspense and drama, using a "hook and twist" approach, as she transports us to familiar places, and nudges our memories of people from our local communities. What fun! 😊

Author, Linda Lonsdorf, born in Akron, is a retired high school English and speech instructor. She resides in Green, and Florida with her husband, Dr. Kevin Lonsdorf.

Her first novel, *Family Threat* is followed by *Evil Injustice*, *A Deadly Ruse* and *Don't Open the Door*. Available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or your local library.

Submitted by Marcie Robinson

## For the Kids . . .

No one can tell a story quite like a grandma! Author Arleta Richardson created a bestselling series called Grandma's Attic, currently made up of 4 books – *In Grandma's Attic*, *More Stories from Grandma's Attic*, *Still More Stories from Grandma's Attic*, and *Treasures from Grandma's Attic*. Grandma Mabel grew up in the 1800's on a Michigan farm. She shares the often humorous and always poignant stories of her childhood that takes the reader back to a simpler time, but the lessons learned are surprisingly relevant in today's world. These wholesome stories promote godly values and character, and through the escapades of a young girl teach the reader about forgiveness, trust, and God's faithfulness. Grandma Mabel shares marvelous stories of mischief, discovery, and laughter that the reader can relate to and will also learn in the reading that some things are worth more than a treasure or a keepsake.

The late Arleta Richardson grew up in Chicago under her grandmother's care. As they sat overlooking the shores of Lake Michigan, her grandmother shared memories of her childhood on a Michigan farm. These treasured family stories became the basis for the Grandma's Attic series. Arleta Richardson's wholesome stories have reached more than two million readers worldwide. Recommended for ages 8 to 12 but can be enjoyed by any age.



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Fear is a disease  
Hope is the only cure

*Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope  
in the Lord.*

Psalm 31:24

## Hot Rolls

By Vera Jarvis



Use a 6 quart mixing bowl. Place in the bowl:  
½ cup shortening                      1 Tbsp salt  
¼ cup sugar                              2 cups boiling water

Let stand until shortening dissolves, then add:  
1 cup milk (canned), 3 eggs, slightly beaten. Dissolve 2 cakes of yeast in 1 cup lukewarm water; add to other mixture when it has cooled to lukewarm. Add flour enough to make the dough easy to handle. Cover the bowl; set in a warm place to rise until triple in size. Punch down with scraper and remove to a floured board and knead until dough is smooth and pliable. Make out into rolls. Place in well buttered pan. Butter tops of rolls and let rise, then bake at 400 degrees until golden brown.

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## A Perfect Package

I've found happiness,  
Tucked away inside a dream,  
Bound by a ribbon of miracles,  
Wrapped in a child's smile,  
Dipped in a colorful rainbow,  
And whispered in a prayer.



Written by Darlene Greenwood

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*For God so loved the world . . .  
John 3:16*

In the beginning God loved us. He flung the stars and sun and moons in space. . .all for the man and woman He would create and love and die for. . .

Anonymous

## Retarded Grandparents

(This was actually reported by a teacher.)

After Christmas, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holiday away from school.

One child wrote the following:

We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Batemans Bay where everyone lives in nice little houses, and so they don't have to mow the grass anymore!

They ride around on their bicycles and scooters and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore.

They go to a building called a wreck center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now. They do exercises there, but they don't do them very well.

There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on.

At their gate, there is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out and go cruising in their golf carts!

Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And, they eat the same thing every night --- early birds.

Some of the people can't get out past the man in the doll house. The ones who do get out, bring food back to the wrecked center for potluck.

My Grandma says that Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too.

When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let people out, so they can visit their grandchildren.

Found on Facebook  
Lorraine Roth  
December 2, 2021



## A Cheerful Heart

God means for us to experience joy. It is not His intent that we suffer from ulcers, migraine headaches, and other stress related illnesses. Review with me these scriptures that remind us what God says about joy.

*A merry heart has a continual feast.*  
Proverbs 15:15

*A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance.*  
Proverbs 15:13

God has given to each of us an incomparable medicine bag – in it is the divinely created ability to laugh at ourselves, at our circumstances, at humor produced by others, and to take a less threatened view of everything around us. To utilize the contents of that bag is to experience healing for our minds, our souls, and our bodies.

Marilyn Meberg  
Choosing the Amusing

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## Pineapple Cheese Ball

By Liz Ferguson



1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese  
¼ cup chopped green pepper  
1 Tbsp chopped onion  
1 tsp salt  
1 8 oz. crushed pineapple – drained  
½ cup pecans – finely ground

Place green pepper, onion, and pineapple on paper towels to absorb any liquid. Blend all ingredients except the pecans together well. Refrigerate for ½ hour or more. Shape into a ball. Roll in the finely ground pecans. Serves 8 to 10 people.

## Songs We Love

Charlotte Elliott was born on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1789, in Clapham, England. Later she moved to Brighton, England where she remained until her death in 1871. A severe illness left her a permanent invalid, and her health and her disability hardened her so much, made her irritable to the point she wondered if God loved her. Because why would He have treated her this way. From a deeply religious family, her father, a godly man, often entertained servants of God at their home. Doctor Caesar Milan from Geneva Switzerland was one of these. One evening during conversation with Miss Elliott, the subject turned to a personal relationship with God. He asked her if she knew herself to be a Christian. Extremely irritated and angry, she answered it was a matter she wished to not discuss. Being the kind of man he was, he told her he would not pursue a subject that displeased her but would pray that she might give her heart to Christ and employ in His service the talents with which He had gifted her. She became rude toward the servant of God, her behavior unacceptable! After several days of spiritual misery, she apologized for her conduct and confessed that his question had troubled her greatly. She said she was miserable, wanted to be saved, and wanted to come to Jesus but didn't know how. Dr. Milan replied why not "just come as you are"? With further conversation, Dr. Milan made it perfectly clear God's simply way of salvation through Christ and His shed blood. Charlotte did come just as she was, and her heart was changed that day.

Miss Elliott was possessed of a rare literary gift. She had a wonderful way with words. Her brother, Reverend Henry Elliott, was raising funds for a school attended by the children of poor clergyman about that time. Charlotte wrote a poem for this occasion. It was printed and sold across England. The hymn, "Just as I am without one plea" was first published in the Invalid's Hymn book in 1836 and since in hymnals everywhere. "Just as I am" is the most famous invitational hymn in history though Miss Elliott wrote a total of more than 150 hymns. She lived to be 82. Although never enjoying good health, she lived a life pointing people to Christ. After her death, her family was sifting through her papers, and found thousands of letters sent to her from people expressing their gratitude for the way this hymn had

touched their life. Thank God even still today we can come to Jesus.... just as we are!

### Just As I Am

Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fighting's and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!



Submitted by Peggy Somosko

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### Receiving and Giving

What makes the Dead Sea dead? Because it is all the time receiving, never giving out anything. Why is it that many Christians are cold? Because they are all the time receiving, never giving out.

Dwight L Moody  
*The D. L. Moody Year Book*  
*God's Treasury of Virtues*

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*For where two or three are gathered together in my  
name, there am I in the midst of them.*

Matthew 18:20

## Odds and Omegas

Evidently, Amram and Jochebed didn't name their son. It was Pharaoh's daughter who called him Moses.

Exodus 2:10

Did you know that when Jesus died, saints rose from the dead and walked around Jerusalem?

Matthew 27:52-53

There are a lot of "wolves in sheep's clothing" these days. But Jesus used the term to describe false prophets a couple thousand years ago.

Matthew 7:15

The ultimate sarcasm: God described the people in Nineveh as not knowing their left from their right.

Jonah 4:11

Ruth's first husband was Mahlon.

Ruth 4:10

They had peanut butter in the Bible – Ezekiel's tongue was stuck to the roof of his mouth until the Lord gave him words.

Ezekiel 3:26-27

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*For this God is our God forever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.*

Psalms 48:14

May our Lord's continued blessings be upon us, one and all . . . Love and Faith enough to light the way of Hope ahead.

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*Kindness is like snow – It beautifies everything it covers.*

Kahlil Gibran

## Heart to Heart, Soul to Soul

Lord, let me live in harmony  
With those You send my way;  
Let me be a blessing  
In all I do or say.

Take away the "blindness"  
That are hindering my view;  
Let me see through eyes of love  
The way You want me to.

Forgive me for prejudging  
The outer shell of man;  
Let me see inside the heart  
Where innocence began.

Let me be convicted  
When I fail to reach the goal  
To love without exception,  
Heart to heart, soul to soul.

Jill Lemming  
Salesian Inspirational Book

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## Encouragement – Spiritual Confetti

I love throwing things up in the air. At weddings or on New Year's Eve, everyone wants something in their hands to throw. It's a way of lavishing our love on people. Confetti is a tangible expression of intangible emotions. No celebration is complete without it.

Taking the time to gather little pieces of love, grace, strength, and hope is worth it when you shower your friendships with them. Spiritual confetti! It is ultimate encouragement.

Encouragement is to a friendship what confetti is to a party. It's light, refreshing, and fun, and you always end up finding little pieces of it stuck on you later.

Nicole Johnson  
*Fresh Brewed Life*



## Words

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

~ John 1:1-4

As an avid reader and a writer, words are very important to me. We use words to express our thoughts, ideas, feelings, emotions, our hopes, and our fears. We use the written word or the voiced word to communicate with others. Even sign language is based on words. By stringing words together to form sentences, we pass on information to others and they to us. A conversation is formed. Sentences become paragraphs, paragraphs become chapters, chapters can become a book. It all starts with a word.

I know I've written before about how I go each year to Shaker Woods in Columbiana, Ohio. I enjoy visiting certain vendors that come back year after year. Some of these are the ones that make up the small wooden signs with inspirational sayings or fun quotes. They have some that have a magnet on the back for the frig or ones that can hang on the wall or sit on a shelf. I have these all over my house. My favorite is the one in my living room that reads, "Simply Blessed". I have a number of them on the frig that say things like, "you are stronger than you think. . . God made you that way", "and . . . sometimes you just have to pray your way through the day", "praying will unlock the blessing", and "you can teach an old dog new tricks. . . it's just slow . . . partial. . . and happens when they want it to". But there is one that I picked up because it has a typo on it, so every time I read it, it makes me think about it. It says, "carrying around. . . more faith. . . then fear". There's one letter in that little phrase that totally changes the meaning of the whole thing. It says "then" when it should say "than". If we have true faith then we should have no fear. Throughout the Bible we as believers are told to fear not. But this one little letter changes the meaning of the phrase to our becoming fearful when we have faith, not a life where we fear not. We must watch our

words. This error in grammar forces me to think through this mistake every time I read it. That's why I keep it.

Words. From the time of Adam and Eve in the garden there has been language and language is made up of words. When God created the earth He spoke it into existence. And after creating man, He gave them language to record their history, write music, and communicate with each other. Initially there was one language but after the conniving of man at the tower of Babel, many languages were created that man would not sin against God in that way again. (Genesis 1:1-9) In His great wisdom and being a loving Father, God gave us His words, the Word, the Bible. It starts at the beginning of time and shows us how it all started, the early history of man, it tells of the coming of Jesus Christ, His life among men, His death and resurrection, and the years following when His teachings spread throughout the world and ending with the events to come as shown in Revelation. He wants us to know what the future holds for the saved and the unsaved. Using this book like a good Father, He leads us in the way we should go, tells of His love for us, tells of His loving forgiveness, gives us peace of mind, consoles us, and shows us the way to salvation with Him. He gave us words that we can use to pray to Him. In praying we can share our hopes and fears, ask Him for help for ourselves or a friend or loved one that is a time of trial or illness, to grant travel mercies that we have no unfortunate incidents along the way, to grant consolation and peace to one grieving the loss of a loved one. In using our words in prayer, we are given a voice that goes straight to God's ear. It is having a personal relationship with our Creator, that we can go to Him any time and anywhere to tell Him of our day, ask for guidance in any kind of decision making, to thank Him or give Him praise for something good that happened. He always listens and always answers our prayers – in His time, not ours. We just have to learn patience. And we must learn when to use our words and when to be silent and listen for that response.

LeuAnna Taylor

*But the word of the LORD ENDURETH FOR EVER. And this is the word which the gospel is preached unto you.*

~1 Peter 1:25



