

Aurora United Methodist Church

THE MESSENGER

October 2011

“Just Give Me More of Jesus”

This past month I was required to attend the Western Reserve District pastors’ training. I am usually always excited to go to these particular trainings because of the new knowledge I glean from some of the brightest people in our church community. Unfortunately, this time I was not too excited to go. Truthfully, it just felt like another thing to check off on my to-do list for the week. Have you ever felt like that way about church? Small group? Bible study? Sunday school? I know I have.

Well, when I got there I made my way into the classroom I would spend the next five hours in, but was immediately told to go to the sanctuary. When all of us pastors reconvened in the sanctuary, our district superintendent, Rev. Dave Scavuzzo, told us that he was not in fact going to

conduct any seminars or training, but instead he was going to give us the day to spend time worshipping God and fellowshiping with one another. He then went on to say,

“I am forcing you all to take time out of your busy schedules to just soak up Jesus and spend time with one another.”



My friends, this was a Godsend for me! At the end of a great worship service we shared in the breaking of bread by partaking in Holy Communion. As I waited my turn to tear off a piece of bread and dip it into the cup of wine I found myself increasingly excited. I have always loved and appreciated the blessing we are given to partake in Holy Communion, but there was something about this time that was really heartfelt and profound for me. After I partook

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I felt my Spirit longing to go through the line a second time. I just kept thinking to myself, **“I just want more of Jesus. Just give me more of Jesus.”** I left that day feeling like I fell in love with Jesus all over again.

The beauty of the Christian faith is that we can always experience more of Jesus when we position ourselves in a way to receive him. When we become intentional about our own faith development, Jesus has a way of showing up and moving us in ways we could never have imagined. God professed through the prophet Jeremiah, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

It is my hope that every Sunday morning you come to

worship God at Aurora UMC you experience times of falling in love with Jesus all over again. Whether it comes from singing, hearing God’s Word spoken, fellowshiping with one another, or participating in the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism, it is my heart’s cry that you leave changed. It is my prayer that you leave wanting just a little more of Jesus. It is my hope that you fall in love with your Lord and Savior all over again.

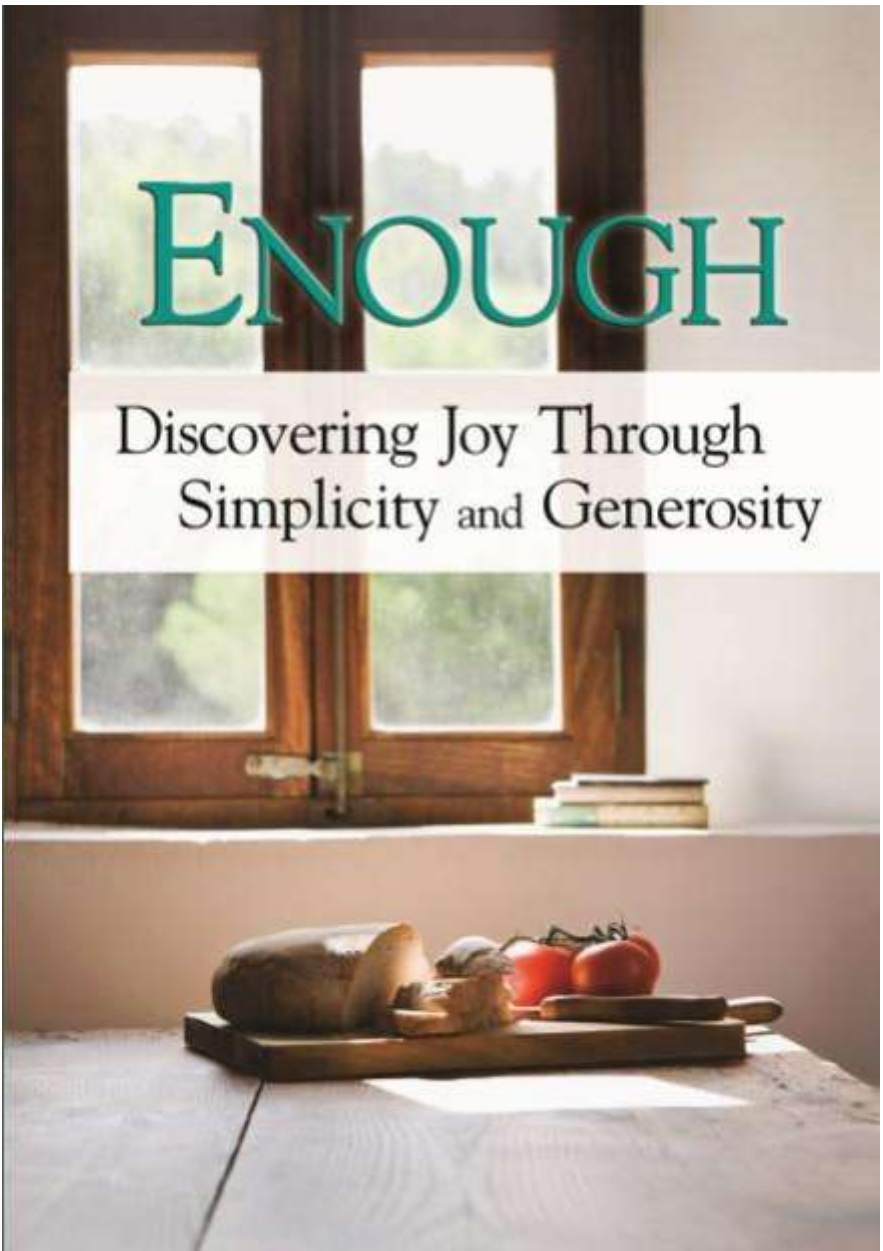
As we continue to move forward as a church, let’s be more intentional about seeking out Jesus. Whether it be through our worship services, Sunday school classes, Small group Bible studies, or simply fellowshiping with one another, let’s be ready and willing to receive God’s Spirit in new and refreshing ways that deepen our faith and cause us to be even greater people of love.

Blessings,
Pastor Jared

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ENOUGH

Discovering Joy Through
Simplicity and Generosity



Enough Stewardship Campaign

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 for 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 we will be having a churchwide study and worship emphasis called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management during our worship service. 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 Sunday, November 20th.

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. At the end of this article you will find a schedule for our sermon series and consecration Sunday.

Throughout our sermon series, we will be using Rev. Adam Hamilton's Stewardship Program guide entitled, *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. I look forward to learning alongside you on how to better manage our money and truly cultivate a joy-filled Spirit by being great stewards to all God has entrusted to us.

Upcoming Sermon Series:

October 23rd

When Dreams Become

Nightmares

October 30th

Wisdom and Finance

November 6th

Cultivating Contentment

November 13th

Defined by Generosity

November 20th

Consecration Sunday

Blessings,
Pastor Jared

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>.

UMM Fall Gathering

On Saturday, November 12 all men are invited to be part of a dynamic conference with keynote speaker, Mike Hargrove, former manager of the Cleveland Indians. The theme is "Revitalizing the Men of Our Church." Workshops will include: personal energy transportation vehicles, hunger issues, prison ministry, human trafficking and men's group ministry.

If you are interested in attending this event, which runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., please have your registration in to the church office prior to Nov. 1. Cost is \$25. Late registration or at the door is \$35. The fee includes breakfast and lunch. We will car-pool from the church if you need a ride. Please feel free to contact Rob Sicker if you'd like more information before our meeting on October 9. We hope to see you there!

UMM breakfast meeting coming up Sunday, October 9. Cooks will be Steve Ivars and Hank Osterman

Omwabini Mission to Kenya, Africa

Our church helps to support Omwabini, a charitable organization founded to help and support orphans and widows in western Kenya, which has been devastated by disease. It was founded by Kenyans, and is directed by Kenyans, with help and financial support from friends in Europe and America. The area in which they work has experienced a very high death rate of young adults from malaria, cholera, AIDS and other diseases. Many of these victims are young parents and their children are left without support.

Omwabini provides support, food, clean water supplies, housing and education. It uses the money it receives to build long-term, local solutions to the local problems. *For example, money provided from Aurora and other supporters allowed them to rent farmland, buy fertilizer and seed, and operate farm implements for one year. During that year a crop was raised sufficient to feed 500 orphan children, and to pay the rent on the land for the following year.*

After three years the farm is thriving, and Omwabini is now working to buy the land. Instead of using donated money for short-term support, projects of this kind use funds to provide the local people with the tools to support themselves and solve their own problems. As well as the farm, our donations have helped to



provide clean water supplies to over a thousand families, and build a hostel for 100 orphaned teenage girls attending the vocational high school operated by Omwabini.

If you have any interest in financially supporting this mission please contact the church office. For more information on Omwabini please contact Phil and Marian Vernon or visit:

www.omwabinirescuesteps.org

Prayer Ministry

Every Wednesday at 10 am our Prayer Team meets in the sanctuary in order to saturate our church, family and friends, country, and world with prayer. **We at Aurora UMC believe in the power of prayer.** We understand the importance in seeking God's discernment as we look to proclaim Jesus and share his message of saving grace to a world in desperate need of it. We also know the profound value of intercessory prayer as we go before the throne of God on behalf of those who are in need of His healing touch and comforting embrace.

If you feel drawn to be part of this ministry team we look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays at 10am. If you have prayer requests that you would like to be publicized please email them to Pastor Jared or the church office.

jpriset@yahoo.com

auroraumc@windstream.net



***On Sunday, October 2nd at 3pm we are participating in an ecumenical prayer gathering at Sunny Lake Park. The purpose of this prayer gathering is to go before the throne of God united, even though we are from many different faith traditions. Our focus will be on praying for our churches, country, and the world as we seek to prosper peace and justice.**

**Prayer Focus for October
Church Leadership Team**

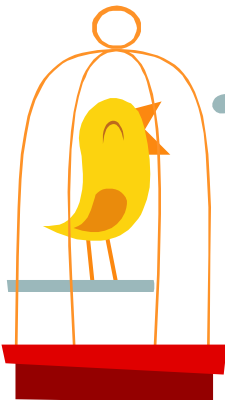
Life in a Song

There are a million parenting strategies out there, with loads of advice written from experts in the field, but my one go-to parenting technique is something I never learned from a book.

I sing.

I sing to my children in all different situations, for all different reasons. We sing nursery rhymes and children's songs – *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*, *Itsy Bitsy Spider*, and *I've Been Working on the Railroad*. We sing songs when we are bored and there is nothing left to do – *Ring Around the Rosy*, and *Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes*. We sing songs before bedtime – *Jesus Loves Me*, and *Amazing Grace*. When both kids are crying and I can barely hear myself think, I sing. I do it to keep my sanity and I do it

because singing always makes me feel better and it usually helps the kids feel better too. We sing when



we are happy and we sing to learn and we sing to settle down at the end of the day.

And once in awhile, we sing because it is the only way to reach someone's heart.

This afternoon, my daughter was having a meltdown.

We had spent the afternoon at the park, she had fallen asleep in the car, and when she woke up, she was beside herself. Overtired, hungry, and in pain (those molars are coming in), she cried and cried and the only thing that she wanted was for me to hold her.

As I held her, with her head heavy on my shoulder, the smell of grass and rain in her hair, the salty wet tears soaking the shoulder of my shirt, I sang. I sang praise songs, songs about Jesus and love and grace. I sang old hymns and simple choruses.

And as her small chest heaved and settled on top of mine, I wondered if the joy and love that filled my heart was somehow seeping into hers. After all, the only thing separating our two hearts was skin, bone, and blood. **And I believe love is stronger.**

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Here is my hope: Even though my daughter is only just two years old, and theology is meaningless to her, I will sing my faith into her heart. I will sing of love and joy, grace and truth. I will sing of life. And maybe, in moments when she is so tired and surrendered that all she can do is sniffle and wipe tired eyes, the words I sing will surround her soul like a whisper. They will embrace her along with my arms and, like a seed, they will sprout and take root.

And bloom.

- *Meredith Priset*



Small Group Ministry Calendar

The concluding four-week schedule is as follows:
Sundays, 2-3 pm at Parsonage
(230 N. Bissell Rd)
October 2, 16, 23, 30
Wednesdays, 7-8pm at Church
October 5, 19, 26
November 2

If you still have any interest in joining a small group this fall please do not hesitate to let us know. **There will be opportunities to be involved in small groups throughout the year.** Small groups are not only a great way to deepen our faith in Christ, but they are also a great way to get to know people from our church family. A portion of our time together is focused on fellowship with one another. We are using *The Story* by Randy Frazee to be our guide as we navigate through the Bible together and learn how God's story and our story are really one in the same.

Church renovation projects are underway. Please be patient as we continue to work on these renovations. All renovations will be done by November 15th.

Weekly Activities

Sundays	9:15 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship/Junior Church
	12:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
Wednesdays	2:00 pm	Small Group Study at Parsonage
		Bulletin Deadline
	10:00 am	Prayer Gathering
	6:00 pm	Praise Team
	6:30 pm	TOPS
	7:00 pm	Small Group Study at Church
	7:30 pm	Choir/Ensembles

Events - October 2011

Sunday, 10/2	3:00 pm	Prayer gathering at Sunny Lake Park
Sunday, 10/9	1:30 pm	CROP Walk registration at Sunny Lake
	2:00 pm	CROP Walk (no small group today)
	4:00 pm	Girl Scouts
Monday, 10/10	6:00 pm	Girl Scouts Leaders' Meeting
Wednesday, 10/12		No small group meeting
Thursday, 10/20	6:30 pm	Trustees
	7:00 pm	Finance Committee
	8:00 pm	Administrative Council
Sunday, 10/23	4:00 pm	Girl Scouts
Friday, 10/28	9:00 am	Legal Forum at Ohio Wesleyan

Prayers and Concerns of the Congregation

Church Family

Bob Bartlett	Kareen Montez
Ada Davidson	Alvira Neverman
Harold & Anne Hartman	Hope Sabeen
Debbie & Lynn Krebs	Kay Walker
Joe Landals	

Friends and Relatives

Jeanne (Reulbach)	Family of Jerome Montez
Rae Ellen Campbell (Reulbach)	Larry Palcko (Shartle)
Lindsey Davis (Leach)	Nick Perry (Ivars)
Keven Dobson (Landals)	Lois Ramsey
Bill Horney (Ineman)	Joe Repp
Sandy Krawson	Ken Shartle, Jr.
Walter Krebs	Julia Shurman (Ross)
	Rick Taylor (Osterman)

**Drivers to pick up at
Independence Village:**

- 10/2 Steve Ivars
- 10/9 Mike Lambertson
- 10/16 Phil Vernon
- 10/23 Jared Priset
- 10/30 Steve Ivars

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 10/3 Alex Brogan
- 10/4 Betty Nichol
- 10/7 Zoe Claytor
- 10/10 Traci Piero
Bob & Sylvia Bartlett
- 10/11 Jared & Meredith Priset
- 10/13 Jared Priset
- 10/18 Jozs Jakab
- 10/21 Ken Meek
- 10/23 Ken Shartle
- 10/25 Kaitlyn Ivars
- 10/27 Terry Lester
- 10/31 Henry Haydu

**Aurora Food Pantry
collection items:
Tissues, toilet paper,
band-aids**

**Those Serving God
and His Church**

Liturgists

- 10/2 Jared Priset
- 10/9 Sharon Badertscher
- 10/16 Stephanie Cook
- 10/23 Cora Marie Reulbach
- 10/30

Coffee Hosts

- 10/2
- 10/9
- 10/16 Deb Harpe
- 10/23 Marti Kast
- 10/30 Walkers

Nursery Ministry

- 10/2 Lisa Brogan
- 10/9 Marcia Bossart
- 10/16 Meredith Priset
- 10/23 Traci Piero
- 10/30 Lisa Brogan

Junior Church

- 10/2 Meredith Priset
- 10/9 Marti Kast
- 10/16 Sharon Badertscher
- 10/23 Sharon Badertscher
- 10/30 Leslie Lambertson

Altar Flowers

- 10/2 Pjeros
- 10/9 Nenadals
- 10/16 Tongs
- 10/23
- 10/30

The Man from Aldersgate

JOHN WESLEY PORTRAYED BY ROGER NELSON

THE MAN FROM ALDERSGATE

HAS PLAYED OVER 1,400 TIMES IN 32 COUNTRIES AND ALL 50 STATES!

Experience the award-winning performance of the life and times of John Wesley, the man who rode over 250,000 miles to bring spiritual renewal to England and America!

MAYFIELD CHURCH

7747 Mayfield Road (corner of Caves and Mayfield) in Chesterland

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 AT 6:30 PM

Introduce your confirmation classes to Wesley! Western Reserve District Superintendent Dave Scavuzzo will lead a Q&A session for our youth following the performance.

For information, please call: 440-729-4006, Ext. 107.

A free-will offering will be taken.

Winner of Religion In
Media's Angel
Award



Winner of ICVM's
Crown Award for
Best Actor

"An intriguing portrait of an extraordinary man!" The Los Angeles Times

"A tour de force!" The Boston Stage Actor

PREVIOUSLY SEEN AT:

Carnegie Hall, New York ~ Wesley's Chapel, London ~ Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland
Stray-Upon-Avon Festival, England ~ Stratford Festival Theatre, Ontario, Canada