

Convoy United Methodist Church

Parrish Portrait

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver, and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty."

Then the second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull."

Finally the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me."

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, "This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter." And he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree the woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree. I should be able to sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from my tree, I'll take this one." And he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenter's, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for.

The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end.

The third tree was cut into large pieces, and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams.

Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this even and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Yearss later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and he stood and said "Peace" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in it's boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, God will give you great gifts.

Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined.

We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

Come Join Us As We Celebrate Easter

Maudy Thursday Quiet Service

Communion at 7:00p.m. followed by short film "Jesus' Jerusalem"

Good Friday Community Service

This will be held at Sugar Ridge Church at 1:00p.m. Bud Walls, speaker.

Easter Sunday

Sonrise Service begins at 7:00a.m. hosted by our Church band "Crossroads" and the Youth group.

Easter Breakfast

Prepared by the UMW, serving will begin approximately 7:45a.m.

Combined Sunday Services

Our Traditional and Contemporary Services will join in one service at 9:30a.m. to praise the resurrection of Jesus.

Praises

Palm Sunday was a special day in the life of our church. We were blessed by the cantata "Because He Lives" written by the Gaithers. The choir was accompanied by Jon Leigh on bass, Laura Leigh on keyboard, and Linda Holden on piano. Anyone who missed this great performance or just wants to hear it again can do so by going to our website, www.convoyumc.org.

Another Praise is that Palm Sunday marked the 7th anniversary of our Contemporary Services. We want to thank our band for their dedication to this service. Pastor Greg on guitar, Laura Leigh on keyboard, Fred Fegley on drums, Jon Leigh on bass, Jordan Leigh on lighting, and vocalists Rita Miller and Jeff Gleckler donate their time and talents so we can have this service. Jon and Judy Hall graciously let us hold this service in the former Hall Lumber building.

If you get a chance, take time to thank these fine people for their dedication to the life of this church. And please join us for the contemporary praise services on Sundays at 11:11a.m. down town, located behind the water tower.

Anyone interested in playing recreational volleyball, please contact Cathy McClure at 419-622-4041.

Anyone interested in playing on the Church softball team, please contact Brett Hammons.

Prayer List

Dorothy (Dale) Gleckler, Marving Keever, Dwight Smith, Mary Cherry, Bryan Stewart, Donna Hoblet, Betty Fortney, Ed Harting, Jim Hammond, Irene Adams, Amanda Lichtle, Jon Keihl, Eszellia McIntosh, Julie Fegley, Pastor Greg's brother-in-law Gary, Lexie Hammond, Jean Carrier, Madison Ringwald, Alison Owens, Shirley Laipply, Judy Hall's Mother, Paster Greg, Diane Boley, Bill Pancake, Diane McBride & son Bruce, Ebony Hammons, Chris Allmandinger, Irene Coyne Gahrig, Care Placke, Unspoken requests

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The Education Committee recently met and decided to host a showing of the film "Fireproff" starring Kirk Cameron. This is a Christian film dealing with a couple struggling in their marriage. Seeking advice they receive some Godly wisdom. This is an adult film with content not suited for Children younger than Jr. High age.

The film will be shown April 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00p.m. There is a sign up sheet in the vestibule. No child care is available at this time.

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## **UMW News**

Our group supports the Clothing House in Van Wert. This is a place to which people in need are referred to go for items they can use. It offers a variety of clothing as well as bedding items, kitchen and bath towels & wash cloths, books, videos, some knik knaks, and a few toys. It relies on donations for all these items. Right now, there is a need for gently used (unstained) childrens clothes for boys and girls in sized 4-6 and 10-12. Another need is sheets and blankets in twin and queen sizes. Packages of new socks and underwear in all sizes for boys and girls, menand women are always appreciated. If you wish to make a donation, you can place it in the basket in the Church Library. For larger donations, please contact Jean Wittung for directions to the Clothing House.

The May meeting will be hosted by the UM Men. They will prepare Mother's Day breakfast for us. This is not limited to UMW members. The men extend the invitation to all women of the church family. A short program will be presented by Vicki Saylor on "Aprons". So mark your calendars for May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. for a Mother's Day Breakfast.

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"When a little voice inside of you says 'no' – don't bully it."

"What should not be heard by little ears should not be said by big mouths."

## **Mission Work Continues**

A mission team, including men from our church, was in Florida during March. They went down and did a roofing job. They were able to take with them \$860 raised at the Valentine's Dinner. Thanks to all who donated or helped in any way with the food, serving, and cleaning. A big thank you goes out to Keith Bowers and Bright Eyes Catering for donating the meat for the meal.

Once again, on Easter Sunday, around 15 volunteers will be leaving from our church. They will be traveling to the Ft. Wayne Rescue Mission to serve Easter dinner to less fortunate people. To ensure everyone there has an enjoyable meal the team will be taking with them pies made by our church family. The Holy Rollers got busy a couple weeks ago and made pie crusts. The Larry Dealey family has paid for 100 of these for members to take and bake for the trip. You need to have pies to the church by 9:30 on Easter morning. Any questions can be directed to Jon Hall. We want to thank him for heading this up again this year.

## **Food Pantry**

The hard economic times are putting stress on our food pantry. We are happy to have this service to offer to people in these trying times. We need to keep it furnished with foods and items that people appreciate. Below is a list of suggested items. Keep in mind people appreciate good brand names and please watch expiration dates.

Boxed meal items such as rice-a-roni, mac-n-cheese, and hamburger helper.

Cans of beef, chicken, pork, turkey, tuna, and salmon as well as cans of fruit & veggies.

Freezer items such as pizzas, pizza rolls, corn dogs, hotdogs, chicken strips, or nuggets, pound packages of hamburger, etc.

Cereals such as Cheerios, Kix, Cornflakes, Trix, Rice Krispies, Capt. Crunch, etc.

Laundry soaps, detergent, fabric softener, dish soaps, bathroom cleaners as well as personal care items like body soap, soft soap, shampoos, mens and womens razors, female products, toilet paper (4-6 rolls), paper towels, Kleenex, etc.

Monetary donations are also needed for fresh items. These can be given to Vicki Saylor or put in the offering plate earmarked for food pantry. Anyone with questions or know of someone needing this service can contact Vicki or Amy Sellers.