

OCT / NOV 2018

# FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

## PERFECT GRACE! — It's All About Jesus

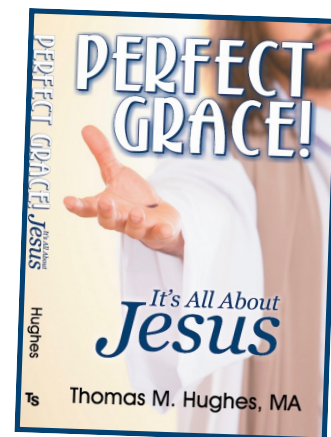
*Hear the author tell what God has done for us NOV 16-18*

Tom Hughes, an Adventist pastor for over forty years, knows first-hand the discouragement that comes from the endless pursuit of perfection. Many have only heard the gospel of Jesus PLUS our good works—a gospel all about what we do for God, rather than a gospel of what God has done for us. He has given us the blessed gift of His Son, whose perfection is there to cover us all.

We can't add anything to God's perfect grace, we just gratefully accept his glorious gift of salvation full and free! Finally off the treadmill of working our way to heaven, we can make the gospel the basis for our worship and have the rest that only comes through trusting in the accomplishments of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

Christians have struggled for years rightly understanding and sharing with emerging generations how important Biblical truths like the gospel, judgment, and worship affect our understanding of God and the church. Without demonizing those the author disagrees with, PERFECT GRACE! exposes seven myths and challenges the reader to consider how the righteousness of Christ—"the only righteousness there is"—positively changes the way one understands and shares those truths.

So make plans now to join us at Toledo First NOV 16-18 when Tom Hughes will be here to talk about his new book Perfect Grace! – It's All About Jesus. Free pancake breakfast on Sunday @ 9am precedes the final presentation at 10am. \$5 copies of his book are available in the church office. —Pastor Mike ##



*“The leaves fall, the wind blows and the countryside slowly changes from the summer cottons into its winter woods.”—anon.*

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# Summer Happenings

The replica of Noah’s ark at Ark Encounter is seen in photo 1. Sixteen people from Toledo First visited in July. Photo 2: Many thanks to Randy Neal, Dave Pate, Jerry Marsa and Pastor Mike for moving the flat rocks to restore the rock wall in the courtyard. In photo 3 teens and

everyone enjoyed the Pond Party at Cases. Last photo shows our picnic spot at Wildwood Metropark in August where we gave away fresh-squeezed lemonade to park visitors. *(Thanks to Pastor Mike and Sheila Case and all the photographers for contributing photos this summer.)* ##

<i>Calendar of Events</i>	<b>OCT 6</b>	<b>OCT 26</b>	<b>NOV 10</b>	<b>NOV 16-18</b>	<b>OCT 20 &amp; 27</b>
	<b>Communion, Evening Hayride</b>	<b>RingFest Concert, 7:30pm</b>	<b>Pathfinder Day/Pinewood Derby</b>	<b>Perfect Grace! weekend</b>	<b>NOV 3, 10 &amp; 17 Meals @ Church</b>

## Open Table update

In the last newsletter Pastor Mike described the Open Table and how it could benefit someone from our community. Many thanks to all those who responded to this new ministry. We collected ten applications and have two substitutes. They have been turned in to Daughter Project and now we’re waiting for the training and start date of our first Open Table group. Stay tuned! ##

## Have you always wanted to visit Israel?

A trip is planned to Israel in the new year and you are invited! FEB 9 board a plane in Chicago to Tel Aviv and return FEB 17. Trip details include: buffet-style breakfast and dinner at hotels daily, double-occupancy rooms, fish lunch by the Sea of Galilee and touring via luxury motor coach with fluent English-speaking tour guide. Price: \$2,280 taxes included, as well as all entrance fees to park and visiting sites. Financial assistance is available from church. Not included in price: travel insurance, which is highly recommended, and tips for guide and driver. ##

## New hours for Panera Bread on Fridays

Beginning OCT 5, free bread and pastries provided by Panera Bread will be available from 9:30 - 10:30am each Friday morning. Come to the side door under the canopy. Please note the time change. ##

## Help assemble Cards for Soldiers OCT 9

Would you like to help assemble greeting cards for deployed military personnel from our area?

Everything to make these cards is pre-cut and will need to be assembled. These cards are blank on the inside, so the service person can write their own note and send it to someone back home.

Everyone is invited to help. Please bring scissors and scrapbooking adhesive if you have them. All we are asking is to please let Brenda Szana know if you will be attending so she can know how many to plan for. The date is Tuesday, OCT 9, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Room.

Any questions, please contact Brenda Szana at 419-356-3719 or [HappyScrapper64@bex.net](mailto:HappyScrapper64@bex.net). ##



## Annual Harvest Party & Hayride is OCT 6

It's one of the most popular events of the year and it's just around the corner! Pray for good weather and plan to meet at the Case Farm Saturday evening, OCT 6 about 6:30pm.

This is a great evening of fun and fellowship for everyone. Come on out, relax on a bale of straw, watch the sun set and see the real stars appear and shine! There will be plenty of good food and music around the fire and a peaceful ride around one or two of the farm's fields on a hay wagon. When you come be sure to bring a friend or two! There's plenty of room and everyone is welcome here. Come on out to the country, leave your cares behind for a few hours and spend a relaxing evening with friends. We are looking forward to seeing you at The Hayride! —Sheila Case ##



## Congratulations JMLC for 15 years!

Happy Birthday, James Meade Learning Center! During Fall of 2018 we celebrate 15 years of exceptional child care being offered through the Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church. We started the center with 3 teachers, 3 classrooms, 1 director, and 12 students. We did not offer infant care until after our second anniversary. Today we have grown to 10 teachers, 6 classrooms, 1 director, and 70 students! The Lord has blessed us with teachers, passionate about seeing their students grow into well-rounded children. James Meade Learning Center was founded out of a desire to see children connect with Jesus and develop in an environment that is supportive to the families that use our service. The learning philosophy in JMLC is that children learn through their environment.

It is our goal every day to bring new experiences to each classroom, and for children to explore new topics. Leading children in love, our teachers set the bar high for early child care providers. Thank you for the support and encouragement for the last 15 years! We are excited to find what lies ahead for us in the months and years to come. —Melissa Wurch, JMLC Administrator ##



## You are invited to worship, lunch, vespers, & Pinewood Derby on NOV 10

Our guest speaker for Pathfinder Sabbath will be Edward Marton, Ohio Conference Youth Director. We will be joined by Pathfinders from clubs all over Ohio and southern Michigan throughout the day. Everyone is invited to stay for Fellowship Potluck. After lunch, we will be offering several honors for the Pathfinders to earn.

Supper for the Pathfinders will begin at 5:30. Then as the Pathfinders and chaperones go into the sanctuary for the evening (possibly with a snake or two), the Toledo First crew will begin weighing in cars for the Pinewood Derby. The race will begin about 7pm and races will continue until all the entries have had at least two races down the track.

There will be snacks for sale during the race and we would love to have you join us for vespers and the race - maybe even race your own entry in the adult race. See you there. And thanks again for all your support throughout the year. —Linda Bilby, Adventurer & Pathfinder Director ##

## Vegetarian food orders due OCT 23

Printed copies of the vegetarian food price list will be on the table in the church foyer, or you can contact our treasurer, Duane Gustrowsky, at [treasurer@toledofirstadventist.org](mailto:treasurer@toledofirstadventist.org) for a price list to be emailed to you.

With that in hand simply key in the order quantities beside each product. Once the sheet with the quantities is emailed back to the treasurer, he can add those quantities to the total order.

Anyone who can't use the spreadsheet and also cannot scan paper copies for email, can take pictures of the paper order sheets and email those. Or an email can be sent listing the quantities wanted in the email. To reduce errors, please type the UPC code, description, and case price with the quantity.

We still will accept paper orders as well, but they must be submitted at the church office before 4pm on OCT 23. Delivery will be Tuesday, OCT 30. —DeLaura Caulder ##



## Soup for You, then Six Weeks Groups

Discussion of the book, “Searching for the God of Grace” continues through OCT 17 on Wednesdays at 6:30pm, preceded by soup, or maybe pizza, at 6pm.

At Soup for You, learn how to start your own small group in your home, a restaurant, or any convenient place. The Six Weeks (small) Groups then finish out the year meeting on NOV 7, NOV 14, NOV 28 and DEC 5, DEC 12 & DEC 19. Or you can choose a day or evening other than Wednesday for your small group. When you have your day and time set, let us know at the church office and we will be happy to advertise for you if you wish (419.882.6200 or [dee@toledofirstadventist.org](mailto:dee@toledofirstadventist.org) ##

## Memories are made of this. . . :)

September 15 was an unusual night. A group of fifteen 6 -10 year olds and six adults met at the Toledo Zoo with their sleeping gear and backpacks. It was a ZOO SNOOZE event. After dropping our things off in Nature’s Neighborhood, we headed out for games and pizza. We learned a lot about sea turtle eggs.

Each person was given a sea turtle egg (ping pong ball) with a number on it. When the zoo representative called out the number, that person gave back the egg and learned what happened to that turtle. A very, very small percentage of baby sea turtles live to be 1-year old. They are hit by boats, eaten by sharks, barracudas or crabs, picked up by sea gulls, swallowed a plastic bag or balloon, caught in a fishing net, etc. It was quite disturbing and the children were compassionate as each one learned the fate of “their” turtle.

After pizza, we were off to see elephants, snow leopards and red pandas in the dark. We made elephant snacks (apples, carrots, hay and popcorn stuffed in cardboard tubes and decorated with our fine art), and then went to bed.

The next morning started with letting air out of air mattresses to get people going. We ate breakfast, played a game (guess what animal makes this noise - one was snoring), then we went back and packed up our stuff. We met a chinchilla and an armadillo. Then we went to watch the elephants eat the snacks we had made. By then it was 10am and time for the kids to be picked up by parents. We can hardly wait to do it again. We have lots of memories plus T-shirts that say “I Snoozed at the Zoo” and patches for our sashes. —Linda Bilby, Adventurer & Pathfinder Director ##

## RingFest 2018 - Invite friends to the concert OCT 26

It is almost time for RingFest. Every October, for the last 19 years, students from all over the United States, have gathered at the Toledo First SDA Church for the opportunity to praise God in a unique musical format. This year, 15 groups will be coming from Adalphan Jr. Academy and Andrews Academy in Michigan, Atlanta Adventist Academy in Georgia, Blue Mountain Academy in Pennsylvania, Greater Lansing Adventist School and Great Lakes Adventist Academy in Michigan, Heritage Academy in Tennessee, Highland View Academy in Maryland, Indiana Academy, Maplewood Academy in Minnesota, Mount Pisgah Academy in North Carolina, Spencerville Adventist Academy in D.C., Shenandoah Valley Academy in Virginia, Wisconsin Academy and our own Campanas Cristalis Handbell Ensemble. The groups will arrive Wednesday night, October 24, with the concert on October 26 at 7:30 P.M. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite the community to our church for this incredible event.



## Kitchen and construction help is needed

As with any event of this size and nature, there is plenty of work that needs to be done that you can assist with. Judy Riley will be providing food service for RingFest and she is looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen. Specifically, we are looking for people to help Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings preparing for the lunch services as well as people assisting Thursday and Friday afternoon for the dinner services. Others are needed to help in the kitchen for the concert afterglow. If you are able to help, please contact Judy Riley at 419-290-0558. Additionally, people are needed to assist in setting up the stage. Construction begins Saturday night, October 20 and continues on Sunday, October 21. Everyone is welcome and there are jobs for all. Contact Bill or Janell Ashley 419-340-2248 with any questions. ##

Look forward and be hopeful, look backward and be thankful, look down and be helpful, look up and be humble. —Unknown

## Campanas Cristalis plays at the National Handbell Seminar

In November, 2017, Campanas Cristalis Handbell Ensemble was awarded a spot light concert at the National Handbell Seminar for 2018. For eight months, the group endured intensive practices and due to the incredible dedication of our young people (and their parents), we were ready to perform.

Early in the morning on Friday, July 20, 2018, the youth of Toledo First SDA church traveled to Grand Rapids, MI in a long caravan of cars with a stuffed trailer. After a careful set up of the stage, the girls got their hair done by Cassidy Cross and we took a tour of the handbell vendors. At 5:30, we took our place on the stage in front of 500+ people who are the brightest lights in the handbell world. Unlike most of the performing groups at the seminar who performed Jazz, Classical, and soft rock music, we kept our performance centered on Christ. Our young people performed brilliantly. The performers were



David Ashley, Jonathan Ashley, Wil Ashley, Maya Daley, Azylei Edgecombe, Allen Gustrowsky, Brandon Gustrowsky, Kelly Gustrowsky, C.J. Jake, Maria Mauder, Ana Myers, Frankie Myers, Emma Landeros, Taryn Landeros, Caleb Rieger, and Netania Rieger.

Thank you to all those who support this ministry in music which has given the afore mentioned individuals an incredible experience that will last a life time. —Janell Ashley ##

*Music is the shorthand of emotion.—Leo Tolstoy*

## Lap quilts bring smiles to faces

What truly pleasant times were shared when members of Toledo First who make lap quilts for wheelchair-bound or shut-in people visited them and presented them with lap quilts. The small quilts are made with love and care and give an opportunity to be a blessing of Christian fellowship to church friends and others through a newly formed ministry. This circle of friends meets once a week at church and is a blessing

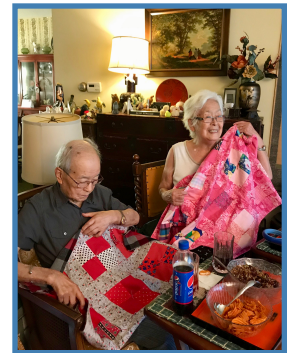
to those who make the quilts, as well as to those who receive them.

The first to receive a lap quilt and visit was Helen Szana who lives at Heritage Corner Health



Care in Bowling Green. The second was Dave and Kimiko Kawakami at their home, and both visits resulted in enjoyment, fellowship, and encouragement for all involved.

Future plans for this ministry are being formed to reach out to some people in nursing homes, who have few friends or relatives and who seldom—or never—receive gifts or connections with anyone. As Jesus mingled with the poor or afflicted, so should we, and this group of “quilt makers” wants to bring blessings from Toledo First to those who need their friendship. —Marion Thomas ##



One day I read in the 10th chapter of Romans, “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” I had up to this time closed my Bible and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible and began to study, and faith has been growing ever since. —D. L. Moody

# OCT & NOV 2018 CALENDAR

## Birthdays

Oct 1 Megan Cross  
 Oct 2 Dr. Steven Bills  
 Oct 4 Mary Famulare  
 Oct 5 Cathie Heath  
 Oct 8 William Ashley  
 Oct 9 Katie Swackhamer  
 Oct 10 Denise Edwards  
 Oct 11 Marshall Makley  
 Oct 14 Pat Olenik, Greg Tary  
 Oct 18 Bill Schulz, Olga Villalon  
 Oct 21 Charlotte Flack, Nia Jake  
 Oct 23 Jean Kline, Kim Williams  
 Oct 26 Wil Ashley  
 Oct 29 Will Orlet  
 Oct 31 Rose Cross



## Birthdays

NOV 1 Frank Engelbert, Anjelika Manakhimova  
 NOV 3 Leisha Barbee  
 NOV 4 Larry Duwve  
 NOV 5 Helen Konewka  
 NOV 7 Gabriel Landeros  
 NOV 9 Bev Ostrander  
 NOV 11 George Jenkins  
 NOV 14 Daniel Landeros  
 NOV 15 Fern Baer, Sara Rios, Randy Neal, Jennifer, Joshua & Lanna Cozzens  
 NOV 17 Will Frey, Pat Kline  
 NOV 18 Marilu Beebe  
 NOV 21 Andrew Jessop, Ben Neal  
 NOV 27 Sonja Maxwell  
 NOV 28 Callie Hood  
 NOV 30 Alex Bills, Kathryn Landeros

## Sabbath Events

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

- OCT 6** Sabbath School & Worship w/communion; Hayride @ Case Place, 6:30pm  
**OCT 13** Sabbath School & Worship  
**OCT 20** Sabbath School & Worship; Friendship Dinner hosted by Rose & friends; Visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford @ 3pm  
**OCT 27** Sabbath School & Worship; Planned lunch for RingFest students, parents, workers; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm

## Sundays

**Mondays** - Bells practice 5:30 - 7:30pm in Fellowship Room

**Tuesdays** - Church office open 9am - 4pm

**OCT 9** Cards for Soldiers, 6:30pm

**Wednesdays** - Church office open 9am - 4pm

**OCT 3** Soup for You - 6pm; book discussion, 6:30pm (*Learn how to lead a small group so you can start a Six Weeks Group*)

**OCT 10** Soup for You - 6pm; book discussion, 6:30pm

**OCT 17** Soup for You - 6pm; book discussion, 6:30pm

**OCT 24** Bell Choirs arrive for RingFest

**Thursdays** - Bells practice 5:30 - 7:30pm in Fellowship Room

**OCT 25** RingFest

**Fridays** -

**OCT 12** Bible Museum Trip begins

**OCT 26** RingFest Concert at 7:30pm

## Sabbath Events

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

- NOV 3** Sabbath School & Worship; Friendship Dinner w/Heather & friends  
**NOV 10** Sabbath School & Worship (Pathfinder Day); Fellowship Potluck; Vespers; Pinewood Derby  
**NOV 17** Sabbath School & Worship w/Pastor Tom Hughes, author of "Perfect Grace! - It's All About Jesus"; Fellowship Potluck; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford @ 3pm; Evening meeting with Tom Hughes @ 7:30pm  
**NOV 24** Sabbath School & Worship; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm

## Sundays

**NOV 4** Daylight Savings Time ends

**NOV 11** Veterans Day

**NOV 18** Free pancake breakfast @ 9am followed by Pastor Tom Hughes' final presentation on Perfect Grace! @ 10am.

**Mondays** - Bells practice 5:30 - 7:30pm in Fellowship Room

**NOV 19 - 23** Thanksgiving Break at Toledo Junior Academy

**Tuesdays** - Church office open 9am - 4pm

**Wednesdays** - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

**NOV 7** Six Weeks Group (*on Wednesday or any day you choose*)

**NOV 14** Six Weeks Group

**NOV 28** Six Weeks Group

**Thursdays** - Bells practice 5:30 - 7:30pm in Fellowship Room

**NOV 22** Happy Thanksgiving Day!

**Fridays** -

**NOV 16** Vespers @ 7:30pm with Pastor Tom Hughes, author of "Perfect Grace! - It's All About Jesus"

