

APR - JUN 2021

FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

Jesus Is The Heart Of It All

Life Altering Messages for 2nd Quarter, 2021

Lucifer was once a heavenly angel. Judas was one of the twelve disciples. And Ananias and Sapphira were apparently part of the apostolic church. But they did not understand that Jesus Is The Heart Of It All. Their motivations for being in relationship with Jesus were flawed. And those motivations manifested themselves in rebellion, rejection, and hypocrisy. But it need not be this way! Because we can give God our whole heart, surrender our will, develop a personal relationship with Jesus and learn how to share that relationship with others. It's not supposed to be complicated. Following Jesus is supposed to be simple enough for a child to do. But humbling and challenging enough for adults to recognize their need for divine intervention. And fortunately, help is available for anyone who wants it! Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would "Bring me [Jesus] glory by telling you whatever He receives from Me" (John 16:14 NLT). So the question is: Would you like to see how Jesus really is the heart of it all?

(Continued on page 2, column 1)




"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."—Hal Borland

Address Service Requested

Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church
4909 West Sylvania Avenue
Toledo OH 43623

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Toledo, Ohio
Permit No. 370



**THE PRAYER OF
THE RIGHTEOUS
IS POWERFUL
AND EFFECTIVE.**

James 5:16, NRSV

WHY PRAY? Because:

1. God hears our prayers. "As for me, I look to the Lord for help. I wait confidently for God to save me, and my God will certainly hear me" (Micah 7:7).
2. Our prayers make a difference. "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).
3. We have been made right with God. "We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are" (Romans 3:22).
4. Our requests are in line with God's will. "And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him" (1 John 5:14).
5. The Father blesses His obedient children with confidence in asking for the impossible. "Give me a helping hand, for I have chosen to follow your commandments" (Psalm 119:173).
6. We are commanded to do so. "Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most" (Hebrews 4:16).
7. We know He is able to do beyond what we request. "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20)

	APR 3	APR 4	APR 27	MAY 31	JUN 13	JUN 15
Calendar of Events	Communion	Easter	Vegefood Delivery	Memorial Day	First Day of Summer Camp	Academy scholarship app due

Vegetarian Food Delivery for 2nd Quarter

The next vegetarian food delivery date is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27. Orders will be due on April 20 by 3pm and can be dropped off, called in, or emailed to the office. The order forms and specials will be placed on the table in the foyer when ready and an announcement will be put in the bulletin. Please note: it will be 4 months until the next order (August) so make sure you stock up for the summer! ##



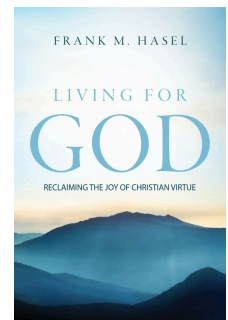
50 / 50 Deal

Is your child interested in attending Camp Mohaven this summer but you just don't have the funds available? Special scholarships are available. See the office for more information asap! The 50/50 deal is available for Toledo First members. ##



Six Week Group Begins

Elders Gary and Katie Swackhamer will be leading a six week group Wednesday evenings beginning April 21 and concluding May 26. This group will be sharing pre-purchased take-out food together (see the Swackhamers for more info) @ 6pm each week followed by prayer and discussion @ 6:30pm. Adventist pastor and author Frank Hasel's new book entitled Living for God will be the focus of conversation. It discusses poignant Scriptural principles of living a virtuous life through waiting, humility, gratitude, suffering and loss. Especially helpful are the chapters describing a digital detox and leaving a virtuous legacy. While supplies last, \$5 copies are available in the church office. Registration and sign up sheets through the church office are required for in-person participation. Seating is limited to 15 people. ## Pastor Mike



How To Watch Sabbath School And Church Online

Search "Streaming Channels" in Roku enabled SmartTV's for "Toledo First SDA Church" OR tune in to the church Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/tfsda.org/> OR tune in to church website at <https://www.toledofirstadventist.org>.

Jesus Is The Heart Of It All (Continued from page 1)

Ellen White, one of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, did. She wrote: “Hanging upon the cross, Christ was the gospel. Now we have a message, ‘Behold the Lamb of God, taketh away the sins of the world’ (John 1:29). Will not our church members keep their eyes fixed on a crucified and risen Saviour, in whom their hopes of eternal life are centered? This is our message, our argument, our doctrine, our warning to the impenitent, our encouragement for the sorrowing, the hope for every believer” (Manuscript 49, 1898, p.41).

So join us second quarter 2021 for thirteen life altering messages sure to draw generations young and old closer to Jesus. ## Pastor Mike

- APR 3 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - Can We Be Friends?
- APR 10 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - It's Who You Know
- APR 17 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - Born Twice
- APR 24 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - Blessed Assurance

- MAY 1 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - Recipe for Bread
- MAY 8 Youth Day - What Our Moms Taught Us About God
- MAY 15 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - The Answer Is Prayer
- MAY 22 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - Gotta Tell Somebody
- MAY 29 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - Dealing With Failure

- JUN 5 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - The Victory Has Been Won
- JUN 12 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - Comforter and Friend
- JUN 19 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - Surviving a Revival Seminar
- JUN 26 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - Homecoming

- JUL 3 Jesus Is The Heart Of It All - Is Jesus Enough?

There Is A Way

After 26 years, I recently had the privilege of returning to my alma mater, Mokobokobo Primary School (nearly six hours northwest of Nairobi, Kenya).



On behalf of Ovision Consulting Group, I shared some words of encouragement and advice and donated and distributed much needed Covid-19

personal protective equipment supplies to more than 450 students and their teachers.

Great appreciation goes to my former teacher who is still a teacher at the school, Ms. Agnes Kemunto Makori, and my kid brother, William, who organized this very important event.

Thereafter, I had a listening / consultative meeting with all teachers and later we were joined by two top leadership of the school Board of Management where both teams heartbreakingly narrated the challenges they are facing. The biggest challenge they are facing is the shortage of teachers. The school has 8 teachers to teach 450 students translating into a teacher: student ratio of 1:57 forcing the teachers to spend an inhuman amount of time to help the kids.

My wife, Irene, treated the teachers to a delicious lunch of mbuzi (a delicious stew of goat meat served with green vegetables such as kale) they



enjoyed very much. The event did not end without comic relief! During question time from students, one student told me that he took porridge without sugar in the morning and asked me if I could provide. I looked at him and saw that he really needed a uniform more than sugar, so he got a uniform instead to his surprise and disbelief! A few other needy students also benefited with complete school uniforms.

This school has many challenges. So I offered and asked them to pray for a solution. I also requested the Principal to form a special team to look into short and long term solutions and get back to me. Then we will prioritize and see how we are capable of helping. Thank you, Pastor Mike, for encouraging the church to “Leave the building.” And thank you Toledo First Church for prayerfully considering how we can help this school too! ## Obed Ombongi

Meet Jackson, Our First New Member of 2021

Jackson is a student at University of Toledo, majoring in civil engineering. His family (father, mother, sisters and two brothers) lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan. But his story did not begin there.

Three quarters of Jackson’s life – his childhood, teen years and twenties – were spent in a refugee camp with his family in Rwanda, a country in Central/Eastern Africa. His homeland was Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which borders Rwanda on the west. The DRC is

The Focal Point

the largest country in all of Africa. In 1996, when Jackson was just 7 years old, his family fled their home to escape persecution during tribal wars that have been going on from the 1990s to the present. They ran, unable to take anything with them from their home. This Adventist family was thankful to escape with their lives!

They walked toward Rwanda and later were able to board a bus, which took them to the border of Rwanda. Eventually they arrived at a refugee camp where their needs (food, water, shelter) were provided by various agencies of the United Nations. Their new home: a tent. Their length of stay: 23 years. Jackson is thankful that he was able to attend school. But, he explains, "Life in refugee camps is the hardest one can think of. However, God has been great to us."



There are about 50,000 Congolese living in five refugee camps in Rwanda. The camp where Jackson's family lived held about 18,000 people. Among those living in the camp were many Seventh-day Adventists as "the Adventist church is big in Rwanda and eastern Congo." Refugees were, and still are, free to worship as they want, but they face challenges related to infrastructure—lack of church buildings, restrooms, etc.

When they fled their homeland they spoke their native language, Kinyarwanda. Jackson learned French in primary school (comparable to K-8) and that was also the language spoken in high school. However, he learned English when he was able to go outside the camp for university studies. His parents still speak only Kinyarwanda.

You may wonder how Jackson and his family finally arrived in America. Jackson explains, "When people are refugees and live in a refugee camp, they are under protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). When there is no hope to have peace restored in their country of origin so that refugees can be back to their homes, the UNHCR collaborates with developed countries and refugees who have been in camps for long (and who are lucky), can see themselves

4

flying to a country like USA, Canada or Australia. It is through this miraculous process that we immigrated to the USA in Feb 2019."

Asked if they had a choice of which country they would immigrate to, Jackson said, "We did not have a choice, we were just lucky to see ourselves in USA." He said there are many organizations called "resettlement agencies" that help refugees when they first arrive.

Jackson is grateful for God's protection and provision. He said, "God has served us in war and we made our way to Rwanda. We lived in a refugee camp through a lot of hardships and we finally made it to USA. We lived on humanitarian aid for over 20 years. Many people are still in the refugee camps and we were no different. We just were blessed."

Jackson Nsengiyumva was baptized in Rwanda when he was 13 years old. On January 9, 2021, he was welcomed into membership by Pastor Mike and our Toledo First congregation. If you haven't met him, yet, won't you introduce yourself?

We are happy you are here, Jackson! Welcome!
Delaura Caulder

Friendship Dinners Return to Toledo First

At long last Friendship Dinners will be returning to TF for the second quarter of 2021! (Friendship Dinners are meals prepared by a team of volunteers and served to you. They are

not a potluck where individuals bring food from home to share and help themselves.)

While they may look a little bit different, it will be great to once again eat and fellowship with one another after the service!

How will they work? Well, for starters, they will be limited to 35 people in the fellowship hall to safely

APR/MAY/JUN 2021



The Focal Point

accommodate social distancing. There will be a sign up sheet provided for each meal and you can sign up on the bulletin board or contact the office to add your name. Masks will be worn at all times except when you are actively eating or drinking at your table. Social distancing will be followed and hand-sanitizer will be available. Some other changes you will notice is that the "silverware" will be pre-packaged and include a napkin and salt and pepper packets.

Friendship Dinner dates for the second quarter of 2021 are: May 22 and June 19. So let's prepare to enjoy each other's company again soon! ##

Sack Lunch Sabbaths Begin at Toledo First

Another opportunity for fellowship begins in TF for the second quarter of 2021. Sack Lunch Sabbaths are opportunities for individuals to bring their own food to eat lunch together in the fellowship hall or outside on our picnic tables (weather permitting). Indoor seating in the fellowship hall will be limited to 35 people. There will be a sign up sheet provided for each week and you can sign up on the bulletin board or contact the office to add your name. Masks will be worn at all times except when you are actively eating or drinking at your table. Social distancing will be followed and hand-sanitizer will be available. The church kitchen and microwaves will not be available for cooking or reheating.

Sack Lunch Sabbath dates for the second quarter of 2021 are April 10 & 24, May 8 & June 5. ##

Helping Area Seniors

Would You Like To Help Area Seniors who are struggling to get the supplies they need? Maumee Senior Center is collecting supplies and Toledo First would like to help! Throughout the month of March we will be accepting donations of sanitizing wipes, dish soap, paper



5

APR/MAY/JUN 2021

towels, copy paper, post-it notes, plastic silverware, batteries (D, AA) and napkins. You can put these items in the bins in the foyer, or drop them off at In Bloom Flowers and Gifts in Maumee (open Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm). Thank you in advance for caring about our community! ##

Miss A Message

Did you know you can read the sermon notes via Google Docs by going to this link for Pastor's Mike's Sermons? https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-ZE1ayI4PvqcygVH0A2Y3EaSxemTu_zz ## Pastor Mike

Academy Scholarships

2021-2022 Boarding Academy Scholarship Applications are now available. The Ohio Conference offers yearly scholarships of \$5,000 for Ohio Conference students attending boarding high school / academy. There are four "near" us and thirty-four in the United States. All applicants must meet deadlines listed on forms. The number of scholarships is limited. First deadline is June 15. Contact the church office for a link to the application. ## Pastor Mike

Forecasting Hope Moves to Youtube

Previously published links for Forecasting Hope expired NOV 15, 2020. But the good news is the entire Forecasting Hope Series is now avail on DVD (see church office) and on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUI0EKBU7btpX_n5iH8aw1g/videos

Member Survey

Do you have a prayer request? Bible question? Would you like a visit? Phone call or video chat? Would you like to get involved in some ministry at Toledo First? Would you like to receive automated church updates via phone or text message? A new member survey where you can submit this info is now avail on our church website. ##



APR - JUN

2021

CALENDAR

Birthdays

April 2 Mary Ann Bagoisan
 April 4 Netania Rieger
 April 8 Robert Ostrander
 April 9 Kimiko Kawakami
 April 10 Doug Orr
 April 11 Kelly Gustrowsky
 April 20 Tyler Leibengood,
 Gary Swackhamer
 April 24 Taryn Landeros, Nina
 Reams
 April 25 Loni Orlet
 April 27 Lewis Simpson Jr
 April 30 Autumn Eichelberger

Sabbath Events

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

APR 3 Sabbath School & Worship
APR 10 Sabbath School & Worship
APR 17 Sabbath School & Worship
APR 24 Sabbath School & Worship

Sundays -

APR 4 Easter Sunday

Mondays - Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

Tuesdays - Church office open 8am-3pm; Church business meeting @ 7pm

Wednesdays - Church office open 8am-3pm

Thursdays - Church office open 8am - 3pm; Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

Fridays -

APR 2 Good Friday

Birthdays

May 1 Austin Jessop
 May 3 Gary Gooden
 May 7 Antoinette Edgcombe
 May 11 Kelly Maxwell
 May 12 Linda Ostrander
 May 14 Tina Polzin
 May 15 Eric Polzin
 May 18 Linda Bilby
 May 22 Derrick Polzin
 May 23 Debbie Balnaves
 May 25 Raymond Kawakami
 May 26 Janell Ashley
 May 27 Cindy Leibengood
 May 28 Madeline Flack
 May 30 Sharon Crosby
 Julie Larimore

Sabbath Events

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

MAY 1 Sabbath School & Worship
MAY 8 Sabbath School & Worship
MAY 15 Sabbath School & Worship
MAY 22 Sabbath School & Worship
MAY 29 Sabbath School & Worship

Sundays

Mondays - Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

MAY 31 Memorial Day

Tuesdays - Church office open 8am - 3pm

Wednesdays - Church office is open 8am - 3pm

Thursdays - Church office is open 8am - 3pm; Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

Fridays -

Birthdays

June 1 Troy Brion
 June 2 Cindy Naus
 Sara Woggerman
 June 3 Christine Behler
 June 4 Angela Eschmann
 June 5 Brad Marsh
 Jackie Fortune
 June 6 Jim Larimore
 June 7 Charles Jake, Jr.
 June 10 Gerald Marsa
 June 14 Rachel Hall
 June 15 Melissa Hare
 June 16 Jack Herman
 June 19 Mike Heiney
 Bradley Austin
 June 21 Dan Frey
 June 22 Charlotte Neal
 June 25 Judy Riley
 Cheryl Malosh
 June 26 Carson Makley
 June 29 Meghan Makley
 June 30 Sandy Gorsuch

Sabbath Events

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

JUN 5 Sabbath School & Worship
JUN 12 Sabbath School & Worship
JUN 19 Sabbath School & Worship
JUN 26 Sabbath School & Worship

Sundays

JUN 13 Cub Camp at Mohaven begins
JUN 20 Junior Camp at Mohaven begins; also Father's Day
JUN 27 Tween Camp at Mohaven begins

Mondays - Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

Tuesdays - Church office open 8am - 3pm

Wednesdays - Church office is open 8am - 3pm

Thursdays - Church office is open 8am - 3pm; Bells practice 6 - 8pm in Fellowship Room

Fridays -

