

# FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Fifth Service Sabbath opportunities abound

*We can all serve our neighbors, the hurting, the poor, the needy around us*

Exodus 22:22 (NLT) says, “22 You must not exploit a widow or an orphan.” But hundreds of years later Isaiah said they weren’t listening. Isaiah 10:2 (NLT) says, “2 They deprive the poor of justice and deny the rights of the needy among my people. They prey on widows and take advantage of orphans.” And they weren’t listening in Jesus’ day either. Luke 20:45-47 (NLT) confirms, “45 Then, with the crowds listening, he [Jesus] turned to his disciples and said, 46 Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes and love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces. And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. 47 Yet they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public.”

Recently, Jackie and I attended the premiere of a new documentary entitled “Getting to 1.” It was a heartbreaking introduction to the infant mortality rate in Lucas County. Did you know the infant mortality rate is three times higher in black babies than white (<http://www.healthylucascounty.org/getting-to-1/>)? As Jesus followers, should we care about that? And the healthcare of all humans?

*(Continued on page 3)*

**The church  
has left  
the building.**



*“Happiness... consists in giving, and in serving others.”—Henry Drummond*

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## DEC - JAN at Toledo First

We collected \$1,555 at Christmas for ADRA's Lifesaver Kits (photo 1). In 2nd photo members of the Leibengood family sang during the DEC 22 worship service when we enjoyed lots of music. At the potluck that day Pastor Mike and family appeared on a "photo

cake" for surprise Pastor Appreciation Day. The last photo shows Cindy Naus (left top) with students at TJA's Kindergarten Roundup. *(Thanks to Jenny Eichelberger, Pastor Mike and all the photographers for contributing photos.) ##*

<i>Calendar of Events</i>	<b>FEB 12</b>	<b>FEB 16</b>	<b>FEB 20</b>	<b>MAR 2</b>	<b>MAR 30</b>
	<b>Cards for Soldiers, 6:30pm</b>	<b>Valentines for Toledo concert 7:00-8:30pm</b>	<b>Six Weeks Groups begin</b>	<b>Int'l Food Fest, 6:30pm</b>	<b>Fifth Service Sabbath</b>

### Thrills - chills & winter fun!

The young and young at heart (& everyone!) are invited to join the group going to Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana for the ultimate Tobogganing experience. Meet at 4pm on FEB 2, canopy side of the church. Don't be late! Cost is \$5 and includes pizza on the way home. ##



### Come to assemble Cards for Soldiers

On Tuesday, FEB 12, 6:30pm join the group of people who will gather in the Fellowship Room to assemble greeting cards to send to deployed military personnel.

Everything to make the cards is pre-cut and ready to put together. The cards are blank on the inside so service personnel can write their own notes to send back home.

Please bring scissors and scrapbooking adhesive if you have them. And let Brenda Szana know if you will be attending so she will have enough materials (419.356.36719 or [HappyScrapper64@bex.net](mailto:HappyScrapper64@bex.net).) ##

### Vegetarian food orders due FEB 26

It's time to check your pantry shelves! The next vegetarian food orders are due on Tuesday, FEB 26, with delivery to the church on the following Tuesday, MAR 5. As always, orders must be by case only.

Printed copies of the 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. Then simply key in the order quantities beside each product and email back to the treasurer.

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.

Paper orders will be accepted as well, but they must be submitted at the church office before 4pm on FEB 26. —DeLaura Caulder ##

*Spring forward! Daylight Savings Time begins March 10.*



## Fifth Service Sabbath *(continued from page 1)*

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10, 1948 stated that “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control” (<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>).

But did you know the United States does not agree? Although the U.S. Constitution provides strong protections for civil and political rights, it fails to recognize the economic, social, and cultural rights guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Some rights, such as the right to education, can be found in some state constitutions; others, such as the right to an adequate standard of living including food, shelter, and medical care, have still not been recognized as rights ([https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/human\\_rights\\_and\\_the\\_united\\_states](https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/human_rights_and_the_united_states)).

Which is ironic because the United States was instrumental in helping to create the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (<http://www.un.org/en/sections/universal-declaration/history-document/index.html>). But whether the United States recognizes the universal rights of the poor and needy or not, we should. That’s Jesus’ point.

We can raise awareness about the infant mortality rate and point people to available resources. We can advocate for preventative health care. We can support one of the numerous non-profit organizations in desperate need of more volunteers (e.g. - The Aurora House; The Ability Center; Cherry Street Mission; The Daughter Project; Habitat for Humanity; Mosaic Ministries to name a few). Wouldn’t Jesus be pleased if all these non-profit organizations had Seventh-day Adventist board members or volunteers?

To encourage you to serve, we are trying something in 2019 we’re calling Fifth Service Sabbaths. The church will be open on months with a fifth Sabbath but no organized worship service will occur 3/30; 6/29; 8/31 and 11/30.

We encourage you instead to plan ahead as Sabbath Schools or Six Week Groups or church friends to be a blessing to others. The older members could make Cards for Soldiers in the fellowship hall. A list of church members shut in that teams could visit will also be available. A sign up sheet to prepare and serve the midday meal at Cherry Street will be available. Additional service opportunities for non-profit organizations that mean the most to you will be posted on the bulletin board as you submit them.

God forbid we parade around in flowing robes (or suits and ties and Sabbath dresses) and share respectful greetings like ‘Happy Sabbath’ as we sit at the front of the class or head of the line at potluck and never miss church while the marginalized and hurting and poor and needy and the organizations helping them wonder where we are. Deuteronomy 7:10 (NLT) says, “10 Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do.” Listen to how seriously God takes the plight of the poor and needy. Exodus 22:23-24 (NLT) says, “23 If you exploit them in any way and they cry out to me, then I will certainly hear their cry. 24 My anger will blaze against you, and I will kill you with the sword. Then your wives will be widows and your children fatherless.”

God is not messing around. Are you? May God help us, in 2019, to stop pretending to be pious religious know it alls. The end. —Pastor Mike ##

## Meeting needs

“My neighbor’s material needs are my spiritual needs,” said 19th-century theologian Israel Salanter. In other words, when someone else suffers hunger and poverty, when people endure a natural disaster and lack shelter, when another human being is sick or injured—in all such cases, God calls us to action. And God knows that whatever we do to meet those material needs will meet our spiritual needs at the same time.

It might be our spiritual need to expand our horizons into neighborhoods, cultures or situations where we’re uncomfortable. We might need to grow in love for people different from us. By serving others, we might find our own sagging spirits nurtured with a sense of well-being or even joy. And as we reach out to help, surely we’ll notice others doing the same thing, and our spiritual need for renewed faith will be met. —Heidi Mann in *The Newsletter*, February 2018 ##

## Valentines for Toledo concert features pianist



FEB 16 is the date for our annual winter church evangelistic effort. Save the date and time,

7:00-8:30pm for a very special concert featuring teenage piano prodigy, Elle Rhee. Use the invitation cards available FEB 2 to invite your friends to attend with you. This year's love offering will benefit the local non-profit organization Elle started called "Spectacles for Students."

The concert will begin at 7pm and during intermission, we will hear from the teen who started this ministry and why. We will affirm her and bless her and thank her for showing us the true meaning of Christ's love for all. The concert will conclude at 8:10pm followed by a twenty minute reception in the foyer.

This is such an easy outreach for guests to acclimate to our church. But to be successful, we need volunteers to make or buy the cookies and punch, set up the foyer reception (and tear it down). We need you to take the prepared invitation cards and share them far and wide in person and online. We need you to personally invite and plan to attend. So I hope to see you there! —Pastor Mike ##

### Join invitations group

Please contact Felipe Zapata (419.250.5889; felipeogando@yahoo.com) to join the group handing out Valentines for Toledo invitation cards after church FEB 2 and 9 #blessedtobeablessing

## I remember when. . .

. . . we spent many Sundays clearing the land to build our church and . . . Barb Snyder, Fran Clapper, Donna Schuster, Marion Thomas and others provided food for all the workers who came to clear the land

. . . the janitor work at our church was done entirely by volunteers

. . . we baked bread to raise money for the new church

. . . the choir was like family and I so enjoyed hearing the other voices, especially after my ear surgery

. . . we had a welcome party for Pastor Mike and Jackie and their two little kids

. . . we gave away "Kindness to Go" bags

. . . we weekendened at Mill Lake each year for fun in the snow



What are your happy memories of church or church activities? We'd like to hear them. Please call

Dee Caulder at 567.239.9466 or 419.882.6200 or email [office@toledofirstadventist.org](mailto:office@toledofirstadventist.org)

**We're planning an "I Remember When" Party on April 28—mark your calendar!** It's going to be fun! If you're new-er to Toledo First, you'll learn some history. If you're old-er, it will bring back memories! It's all good! — DeLaura Caulder ##



## International Food Fest

This year the International Food Fest is scheduled for MAR 2, 6:30pm. It's always fun, always delicious, and the prices are "just right" because it's all about raising funds for welcome baskets. For at least 40 years the IFF has been one of the most popular of social events at Toledo First. We sample foods from other countries which our wonderful cooks prepare, get to know church family and friends better, and lively music keeps our toes a-tappin'. So come on out MAR 2 at 6:30pm. You'll be glad you did. ##

## Six Weeks Groups-soon

Soup for You ends FEB 13, and Six Weeks Groups will follow close behind, starting FEB 20. So, it's time to start making plans. What book will you choose or what activity?

Some groups will study a book for six weeks and invite friends and acquaintances to join them. Others may want to form a weekly walking group, or breakfast club at a restaurant, weekly craft class or some other kind of get-together. Your group can be formed around what you like to do best. The key is to invite someone you want to introduce to Jesus. Praying for that friend daily, and meeting with them weekly, see what God will do.

Imagine the number of people we could reach if everyone participated in a group and each group had one or two people who haven't been baptized. ##

## Spanish Group is growing

The Spanish Adventist Group of Toledo was born NOV 10 with 18 attendees and it is growing, thank the Lord! Weekly meetings will continue each Sabbath from 9:00am - 12:15pm.

On Sabbaths when dinners are scheduled, tables are set up AFTER 12:30pm, when both church services have ended. ##

## Thank You for giving

Many thanks to those of you who purchased and wrapped gifts for residents in the Genesis Healthcare Sylvania Center nursing home for the "Adopt a Grandparent" program. We provided at least two gifts for each of the 14 residents whose "wishes" and "needs" were met, anything from sweatshirts to Harley Davidson items. The gifts are seen here just before delivery in December. ##



## Bible Studies are available Online

The Discover Bible Study series is online. Anyone can enroll and complete them in the privacy and comfort of their own home minus all the USPS mailings. Good for friends and family interested in becoming acquainted with the Bible and finding answers for facing the

issues and challenges we deal with every day. Remember and refer others to this website: [biblestudies.com](http://biblestudies.com) ##

## Lunch dates at church

FEB 9 - Friendship Lunch with Jo Ann & her team  
 FEB 23 - Vegan Challenge Potluck  
 MAR 9 - Friendship or potluck  
 MAR 23 - Vegan Challenge Potluck  
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## Find Lifestyle Magazine on your TV

Lifestyle Magazine is a half hour television talk show focused on living a full, healthy and balanced life. It features panel discussions, interview and demonstration segments focused on whole life health, including fitness, nutrition, relationships, outlook and more. You can find the programs each week on Sky Angel Faith and Family TV, Uplift TV, DirecTV channel 368 or 378, Hope Channel, [faithfortoday.tv](http://faithfortoday.tv), [lifestyle.org](http://lifestyle.org), NRB Network, Roku, AppleTV, and AmazonFire TV. Please check these networks' websites for air times or call Faith for Today at 805.955.7681. ##

## Find support at Alzheimer's Association

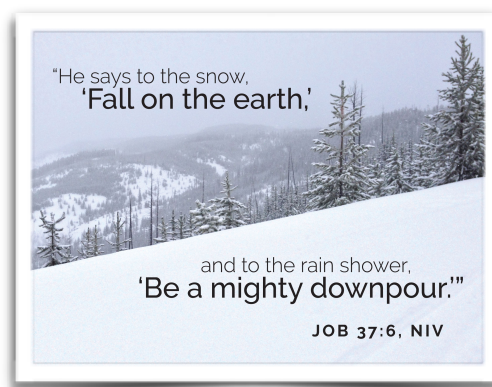
The goal of the Alzheimer's Grief and Bereavement Support Group is to provide support for families who are experiencing grief related to the loss of a friend or family member from Alzheimer's disease or other related memory loss disorder. Meetings are at Alzheimer's Association, 2500 N. Reynolds Rd, Toledo, OH 43615. ##

## Praise God for winter's gift

"God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.' So that everyone he has made may know his work, he stops all people from their labor" (Job 37:5-7 NIV)

Snow, ice and cold can make winter a hassle. 'Snow days' due to a blizzard may thrill students but usually inconvenience parents. But now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We're granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It's like a surprise sabbath—the gift of grace-time—when no one's expected to get out the door or the driveway.

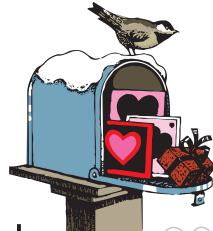
Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shut us all indoors so we pause and remember His work—His place—in our lives. Praise God for snow days! —Heidi Mann, in *The Newsletter Newsletter*, January 2018 ##



# FEB & MAR 2019 CALENDAR

## Birthdays

FEB 1 Brandon Gustrowsky  
 FEB 3 Julie Herman  
 FEB 5 Shirly Heiney, Eniko Romine  
 FEB 7 Kendra Bills  
 FEB 9 Edith Kolmar  
 FEB 10 Beth Bench  
 FEB 11 Cavin Atkins, Carrie-Ann Leibengood  
 FEB 12 Barbara Duwve  
 FEB 13 Lydia Fortune  
 FEB 14 Natalie Hood  
 FEB 15 Tamara Davydova  
 FEB 18 Tracy Jakubowski  
 FEB 20 Carla Szczechowski  
 FEB 23 Rebekah Godie Koehler  
 FEB 26 Allen Gustrowsky, Alec Leibengood, Ariel Richardson  
 FEB 27 Morlon Harris, Andrea Hughes  
 FEB 28 Nikyta Cantwell



February 2019

## Sabbath Events

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

- FEB 2** Sabbath School & Worship; Invitations group hands out invitations to Valentines for Toledo; Tobogganing @ Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana. Meet 4pm at canopy side of church.
- FEB 9** Sabbath School & Worship; Friendship Dinner hosted by Jo Ann & her team; Invitations group hands out invitations to Valentines for Toledo
- FEB 16** Sabbath School & Worship; Visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford @ 3pm; Valentines for Toledo Concert, 7pm
- FEB 23** Sabbath School & Worship with lots of music; Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm

## Sundays

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

- FEB 11** School Board Meeting, 7pm  
**FEB 18** Presidents Day - no school

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

- FEB 12** Cards for Soldiers, 6:30pm  
**FEB 26** Vegetarian Food Orders are due by 4pm

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

- FEB 6** Soup for You with soup @ 6pm and discussion of the book, PERFECT GRACE following at 6:30pm  
**FEB 13** Soup for You with soup @ 6pm and discussion of the book, PERFECT GRACE following at 6:30pm  
**FEB 20** Six Weeks Groups begin  
**FEB 27** Six Weeks Groups continue

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

- FEB 14** Happy Valentines Day!

**Fridays** - **Free Panera Bread** available from 9 - 10am. Come to the side door under the canopy

## Birthdays

MAR 1 Leonard Jessop  
 MAR 3 Craig Horvath, Emma Landeros  
 MAR 11 Theresa Brown, Katie Yoder  
 MAR 13 Larry Godie, John Hood  
 MAR 14 Debbie Putano  
 MAR 15 Charlotte Herman, Marilynn Marsh  
 MAR 16 Allan Wolfson  
 MAR 17 Glen Good, Sr  
 MAR 20 Julie Jessop  
 MAR 23 Dr. Ted Nonoy  
 MAR 24 Brenda Szana  
 MAR 26 Leisha Armistead  
 MAR 29 Sheila Case

## Sabbath Events

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

- MAR 2** Sabbath School & Worship; International Food Fest @ 6:30pm
- MAR 9** Sabbath School & Worship; Friendship Lunch or Potluck
- MAR 16** Sabbath School & Worship; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford @ 3pm;
- MAR 23** Sabbath School & Worship; Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm
- MAR 30** **Fifth Service Sabbath** - No organized worship. Instead, plan to be a blessing by serving others

## Sundays

- MAR 10** Daylight Savings Time begins again!

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

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

- MAR 5** Vegetarian Food Delivery

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

- MAR 6** Six Weeks Groups  
**MAR 13** Six Weeks Groups  
**MAR 20** Six Weeks Groups; First day of Spring  
**MAR 27** Six Weeks Groups end

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

**Fridays** - **Free Panera Bread** available from 9 - 10am. Come to the side door under the canopy

- MAR 15** Grandparents' Day at Toledo Junior Academy

