

# FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Outfits for the Amazon

*Provide much needed clothing and shoes for our friends in the Amazon!*

This past July, 10 Toledo First members flew to Manaus, Brazil, to participate in a mission trip. They drove to Manacapuru, and then journeyed 6 hours up the Amazon River on a boat to the village of Umari. Umari is just one of many villages along the Amazon River that is accessible only by boat. Can you imagine spending 6 hours one way to do your grocery shopping, see a doctor, or buy clothes? And that's only if you have the money to pay for transportation, food, medical help, or clothing!

Their living conditions are hard to understand for those of us who live in such a blessed country. Their homes consist of rough lumber, tin roofs, no plumbing, and hammocks to sleep in. Their diet consists mainly of fish and yuca root, prepared various ways. While there are a few fruit trees in the village, accessing the many fruit trees further out in the jungle, is nearly impossible. The rainforest is just too thick and dangerous to venture far from the village.

Medical help is almost nonexistent for most of the villages. There were small kids with infected cuts that flies were swarming all over. We met a missionary teacher from Portugal while we were in Manaus. He had traveled over 30 hours by boat to bring one his students to Manaus to get some much needed medical attention.

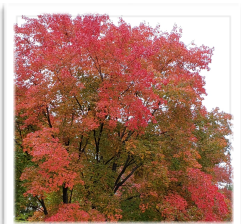
*(Continued on page 3, column 1)*



*“No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.”—Hal Borland*

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Toledo,

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



# October & November @ TF

Photo 1 shows the beautiful fall colors of the various trees in the Toledo First parking lot. In photo 2, Campanas Cristalis poses for their formal Ringfest photo at the end of October. Next, John Hood, Sr., preaches at Toledo First for the annual Pathfinder Sabbath (photo 3). We had 5 visiting

clubs who spent the afternoon learning new honors and then they learned about snakes before participating in the Pinewood Derby in the evening. (photo 4) (Thanks to Cathie Heath, Tripp Cantwell & Shawn Flack for taking the photos shown here.) ##

	DEC 14	DEC 19	DEC 28, JAN 11 & 25	DEC 24	JAN 15	JAN 25
Calendar of Events	Friendship Dinner	TJA Christmas Program @ 6:30pm	Fellowship Potluck	Christmas Eve Service @ First Alliance @ 5pm	Kindergarten Roundup & Visitor Day	Spaghetti Dinner & Movie Night @ 6:30pm

## New music leader needed

Toledo First has need of a music leader to begin in January and cover the first weekend of each month. Duties include playing for children’s story, song service, offering, and the closing song. Are you a musician but not a vocalist? Or are you a vocalist but need someone to play for you? Let the office know of your ability and interest, and we will try and match you up with someone you can partner with. ##

## Would you be willing to host a Friendship Dinner?

We are in need of a Friendship Dinner host and team for the month of January each year. Can you help? If you are willing to either be a host (organize the meal and team) or to be a team member, please let the office know as soon as possible! ##



## Join us for the showing of *Pilgrim’s Progress* on DEC 7 @ 7pm!

Toledo First will be hosting a movie night and showing the animated version of John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*. This is an allegory written by John Bunyan while he was in prison for his faith. Journey with Christian from the ‘City of Destruction’ (his hometown) to the ‘Celestial City.’ (Heaven) Meet the characters on his journey including Evangelist, Obstinate, Pliable, Mistrust, Presumption, Help, and Goodwill among others. Journey with him on the King’s Highway, through the Valley of Death, over the Hill of Difficulty, and through the bypasses called Danger and Destruction on the way to the Palace Beautiful. We hope to see you there! ##



## First Vegetarian Food Delivery of 2020

March will likely be the month of the next vegetarian food delivery. Be on the lookout in early to mid-February for the next order forms. ##

## Come and see *Alive Inside* on JAN 18 @ 7pm

*Alive Inside*, a stirring documentary by Michael Rossato-Bennett, introduces the concept of using music to combat memory loss and restore a sense of self to those who are dealing with the memory loss. Throughout the documentary, visit with family members who share the amazing results discovered after creating a personalized music playlist for their loved one. Discover how music’s healing power can triumph where prescription medication is failing. ##

## Outfits for the Amazon *(continued from page 1)*

He shared with us what it was like to be a missionary in this area and the dangers he and all the River People face each day. If anyone is bitten by one of the venomous snakes in the area, there is no hope for them. Even simple things like cuts, if infected, can spell the end as they just can't afford to be taken somewhere with proper medical treatments.

Clothing is another item they lack. Many of the children ran around in either just underwear, or shorts. Most of them had no shoes. Some of the kids had fairly nice clothes, but we noticed that they were worn over and over throughout the week we were there. When we were packing to leave, the missionary wife on our boat asked us to leave any clothing we were willing to because they desperately needed whatever we could give.



For this reason, we are adopting the village of Umari to help with clothing and shoes for our December fundraiser. Much needed items include shorts, shirts, tank tops, underclothing, modest pajamas, skirts, dresses, flip flops and tennis shoes. Please remember that Umari is located virtually on the equator. No coats, jackets, or sweaters needed! Clothing is needed for both men and women, and all kid sizes as well. Money will also be accepted to purchase additional clothing and shoes and to cover the shipping.

We did notice that the little girls seemed to really enjoy wearing sundresses, and if one person would like to purchase a regulation size soccer ball, the boys would absolutely love it! They were using a very small ball to play, and one time we saw them using a small bag of trash that was tied up in a circular shape and kicked around the field! ~ ## Jen Landeros

## FIFTH SERVICE SABBATHS in 2020

Mark your calendars and bring your sack lunch / tools / service clothes to church with you. In 2020, AFTER SABBATH SCHOOL AND WORSHIP we

encourage you to plan ahead as Sabbath Schools or Six Week Groups or church friends to be a blessing to the poor and needy in our community. The first "Fifth Service Sabbath" in 2020 will be FEB 29, 2020. Additional dates include MAY 30, and AUG 29. How will you plan to be a blessing? Please submit your proposals to the church office if your project could use additional volunteers. Lists of projects will be posted in the foyer.

Luke 6:9 says, "9 Then Jesus said to his critics, "I have a question for you. Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?" Luke 20:45-47 adds, "45 Then, with the crowds listening, he turned to his disciples and said, 46 "Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes [or dresses, suits, and ties] and love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces [and hallways at church]. 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. Because of this, they will be severely punished." So for Jesus' sake, let's make Fifth Service Sabbaths truly happy Sabbaths for those in our community God loves like crazy. May emerging generations at Toledo First also remember that Sabbath is a delightful day (Isaiah 58:13) for doing good! ## Pastor Mike



## TJA in the news!

TJA has been hopping with activity the past three months. In September, we enjoyed Fall Week of Prayer with Pastor Mike and joined James Meade Learning Center for Education Day at Toledo First Church. October was a fun month where we celebrated being part of TJA with Spirit Week, a field trip to Gust Brother's Pumpkin Farm, Red Ribbon Day, and Parent Teacher Conferences. We kicked off November with Muffins with Mom, selling snacks at the Pathfinder Pinewood Derby, and a field trip to the Imagination Station. We will soon gather with TJA friends and families for our highly anticipated Thanksgiving Feast. 'Tis the season for gathering, and we would like to cordially invite each one of you to join us for our Christmas program presentation at the church on December 19th at 6:30pm. You can also send potential students our way for Kindergarten Round-

## The Focal Point

up and Visitors' Day on January 15th. Interested families can call the school at 419-841-0082 to reserve a spot. January 25th at 6:30pm, we will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner and Movie Night in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you can join us and show your support by attending any or all of these events. We have wonderful families at TJA and we would love for you to get to know them better ## Natalie Hood

## October 19 welcomed 5 new members

About a month ago Toledo First welcomed 5 new members who decided they wanted to follow Jesus and make a visible commitment to live for Him. We are proud of each of them, and want to make every effort to make them feel welcome, included, and involved in our church family! If you or someone you know would be interested in joining the next baptism classes, please let Pastor Mike or the office know!

Ana Myers (right), enjoys playing handbells and the ukulele. She also loves animals, paint by numbers, and baking. Ana believes God shows His love to us by always being with us, no matter what. He guides, counsels, and loves us and is the best Earthly and Heavenly Father there could ever be!



Frankie Myers (left), enjoys being in the bell choir, and working on his car. He also enjoys

outdoor activities that include swimming, hiking, and camping. Frankie is very appreciative of all the answered prayers that have occurred in his life and is grateful for the faith building experiences that have occurred as well.

Timothy Bell (right), is the son of John and Julie Bell. He is one of 10 siblings and was born right here in Toledo! He wants to surrender everything to Jesus now and forever!



Sally Avalos (left), has loved the Lord all her life. She thanks God for all the blessings he has given her such as her

husband, an end to seizures, and also an end to diabetes. She is happy to be able to be baptized with her husband and looks forward to being included in the first resurrection.

Shannon Mathre (right), is happy to demonstrate his commitment to following Jesus now. He is grateful for God's love and forgiveness and excited to begin his new journey with God at his side. He is also happy to be able to get baptized with his wife and looks forward to growing in Christ together with her.



*(Thanks to Carla Szczechowski for the baptism photos!)*



# DEC & JAN 2020 CALENDAR

## *Birthdays*

DEC 3 Ryan Wilson  
 DEC 6 Jordan & Megan Wilson  
 DEC 7 Cindy Larimore  
 DEC 8 Chris Atkins  
 DEC 9 Hannah Bundy  
 DEC 10 Kay Ostrander, Charles Makley  
 DEC 11 Mindy Flack  
 DEC 12 Mary Ann Sandy  
 DEC 15 Sara Austin; Brian Crosby  
 DEC 16 John Eaton  
 DEC 17 Norman Burrow  
 DEC 18 Joseph Famulare  
 DEC 19 Frank Netry  
 DEC 20 Ralph Collins  
 DEC 22 Cassandra Leibengood, Mary Parker  
 DEC 26 Carolyn Nonoy  
 DEC 27 Duane Gustrowsky  
 DEC 28 David Bening, Marion Thomas

## *Sabbath Events*

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am  
**DEC 7** Sabbath School & Worship; *Pilgrim's Progress* film @ 7pm  
**DEC 14** Sabbath School & Worship; Friendship Dinner with Marilu Beebe and team  
**DEC 21** Sabbath School & Worship Visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford @ 3pm  
**DEC 28** Sabbath School & Worship; Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm

## *Sundays*

**Mondays** - Church office open 8am-3pm (DEC 23 only); Bells practice 6pm - 8pm in Fellowship Room  
**Tuesdays** - Church office open 8am-3pm (except DEC 24)  
**DEC 24** Christmas Eve Service @ First Alliance Church @ 5pm  
**Wednesdays** - Church office open (except DEC 25)  
**DEC 25** Christmas Day  
**Thursdays** - Church office open; Bells practice 6pm - 8pm in Fellowship Room  
**DEC 19** Bells group at Art Loop  
**Fridays** - Church office open 8am - 3pm (DEC 27 only)

## *Birthdays*

JAN 1 JoAnn Arthur  
 JAN 3 Cathy Hall  
 JAN 6 Isaiah Godie, Larissa Fraley  
 JAN 7 David Ashley, Kevin Herman  
 JAN 8 Donna Schuster  
 JAN 10 Skylynn Choti  
 JAN 12 Kyle Jakubowski  
 JAN 14 Jackson Flack  
 JAN 18 William Crosby  
 JAN 20 Cassidy Cross  
 JAN 24 Kathy Kajfasz, Jen Landeros  
 JAN 27 Glenn Szana  
 JAN 29 Ericka Bilby  
 JAN 30 David Case, Kyla Reams

## *Sabbath Events*

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am  
**JAN 4** Sabbath School & Worship  
**JAN 11** Sabbath School & Worship; Fellowship Potluck  
**JAN 18** Sabbath School & Worship; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford at 3pm; *Alive Inside* film @ 7pm  
**JAN 25** Sabbath School & Worship; Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm

## *Sundays*

**Mondays** - Bells practice 6pm - 8pm in Fellowship Room  
**Tuesdays** - Church office open 8am - 3pm  
**Wednesdays** - Church office open 8am - 3pm  
**Thursdays** - Church office open 8am - 3pm; Bells practice 6pm - 8pm in Fellowship Room  
**Fridays** -