

The Chimes

January 4, 2018

I have to admit that I am a hypocrite. I preach regularly about choosing priorities. I preach about the temptation and sinfulness of being too “busy”. I preach about taking time for what is truly important.

But I don't always live it.

I struggle terribly with this. I am always trying to fit in one more project, one more task, one more activity. There's always more to do and I try to find a time to do it. I have a full-time job as pastor of the church. I have a young family. On top of that, we took on foster children. I coached soccer. I taught five classes at the seminary level. I agreed to provide advance reviews for three new books. I took on more responsibilities on the district level and conference level with our Boards of Ordained Ministry.

At no point did I intend to take attention away from what is important. New opportunities came up and I found ways to make them work. It's only in hindsight I realize what I missed. My family didn't take a vacation this year. We had planned a few long weekends but those were cut short by funerals and other unplanned ministry events.

In fact, it wasn't until this Christmas season when my health forced me to stop that I realized what I had missed in all the busyness. Spending time with my kids, with no limits and no agendas. Spending time in prayer and devotion, without the pressure of needing to jump into another task or another requirement. Sabbath, to rest my body, my mind, my soul.

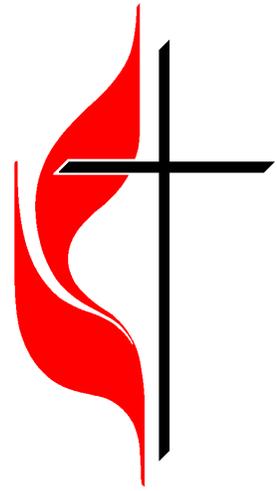
I only wish I had followed my own preaching and been more deliberate about this Sabbath pattern all throughout the year, not just when my body forced me to be.

Sabbath was a command to the early Israelites. One day of no work. One day to focus on God. One day to stop that quest for more, the busyness of life, and just rest. One day to renew your body and mind and reset yourself on what priorities are truly important.

The new year is often a time to look at your life and consider your resolutions for the next year. I invite you to try something. Start from scratch. Take your calendar. Clear everything. Set aside time for God and time for family. Then, begin to refill your schedule, but as you do ask yourself, “Does this activity reflect my values? Is it truly important? What do I lose by scheduling this?” And do the same with your items around the house. As you find spots for all the items you received for Christmas, ask about your other items, “Does this item still serve a purpose? Can I make room for something else by losing this?”

Make the resolution to reset your life and focus on what is truly important- life as a disciple of Christ.

-Jonathan Hanover



[Prayer List](#)

Karl McNeal
Peggy Wills
Ruth Klingler
Wilma Zuchetto
John Wicherson
Marilyn Arn
Bud Winzenried
David Deever
Mason Bloom
Erma Boysel
Zoey Turner
Linda Mabrey
Janet Jones
Sharon Heilman
Dave Amweg
Jane McGee



Happy
Birthday!

1/4 Joe Dulin
Hardin Hills
1211 W. Lima St.,
Kenton

1/12 Roberta Flinn
130 Oak Lane,
Kenton

1/14 Alta Boger
2909 TR 142
Findlay, Oh 45840

1/18 Mary Lou
McNeal
14849 St Rt 68,
Kenton

1/24 Barbara
Winzenried
811 Maydoll Dr.,
Kenton

Children's Ministry

I would like to take this chance to say thank you to everyone who helped with the 4:00 Family Christmas Eve Program, from the praise band and sound crew, costumes and stage leaders to the Sunday school teachers and everyone that helped with great tips at rehearsals! We could not have had such a fantastic program without all of your help. Special thank you to Lacey Watkins for co-directing with me! I appreciate your willingness to step in when I had to miss practice and for all of your help during the program!

Youth Ministry

Thank you for your support for our One Fund Soup Cook-off/Silent Auction! We raised over \$1700 for our youth ministry programs.

We greatly appreciate your prayers and support! Middle and high school youth will be traveling to the Schottenstein Center on Saturday, January 20th for *Winter Jam 2018*! We will leave the church parking lot at 2:00 pm. Cost will be \$15. Church will provide \$5 lunch at McDonalds before the concert. Reserve your bus seat with Christa by January 7th! Other January dates to remember include Sunday youth group: January 7th, 14th, and 28th including dinner in the lounge at 5:30 pm, and ministry from 6-8 pm! Wednesday youth group: January 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st. LAKESIDE will be July 1st-7th. A \$100 deposit will be due in April.

Kids' Club

We enjoyed serving others during our cookie Faith In Action Night. We decorated five dozen cookies for the cookie walk and talked about how missions help other people and not all missions are in far off places. The cookie walk helps those right here in town. After our long break we are happy to get back to our regular Wednesday night schedule, dinner at 6:00 pm and ministry from 6:30-8:00 pm. Remember to listen to the radio. If school is closed because of weather Kids' Club for that night will also be cancelled. We will announce it on WKTN and our facebook page. Happy New Year to everyone!

Preschool News

Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace..." I love this verse due to the fact that this verse was written in the Old Testament, years BEFORE Jesus ever came to earth. A prophecy that was 100% fulfilled in the beginning of the New Testament.

This has been a great season to teach the preschoolers about the real reason for Christmas...Jesus. They had their Christmas program Thursday, December 14th titled the Sound of Music in which they offered their favorite preschool classroom toys to baby Jesus in His manger. The students did a great job singing and still want to sing the Christmas songs they have learned to love.

A BIG thank you to all who helped in the program, especially Lacey Watkins, my right hand help who means more to me than gold...and looks great doing it ! Thanks to Christa Quail for wrapping all my loose ends and pulling things together for me. Tobey Steinman was my sound help again this year who always makes us sound good. Pastor Jonathan for his technical fixes. What a great staff ! I love you all !

When practicing for the program I was a little concerned the students would not be loud enough. However, this year instead of having children fearful of a crowd, it appeared that my group sang twice as loud for their audience. I'm so glad they sang well, praise the Lord!

Miss Lisa

Sermon Series-When Christians Get It Wrong

We Christians like to argue. More than with those outside the faith, we like to argue amongst ourselves. Even in the Bible we find people of faith arguing amongst themselves. Is it more important to believe the right things or to live the right way? What type of worship is the correct way? Are we preparing ourselves to go live in the Kingdom of God/Heaven, or are we working to create that here? How do we take communion? When should we be baptized? Usually when we argue these questions no one wins.

Because they are the wrong questions.

So for the next few weeks we will explore these and similar questions. We will poke fun at

ourselves. We will see how both sides miss the point. And we will discover the questions that God is inviting us to ask.

January 7th- *What is Faith?*

January 14th- *Do I Have to Go to Church?*

January 21st- *What's the Right Way to Worship?*

January 28th- *How Do I Get Eternal Life?*

February 4th- *How Do We Take Communion and Baptism?*

February 11th- *What is Evangelism?*





Thank you for allowing us to use your church for our Christmas program. The church was beautiful and we enjoyed your hospitality.

-Hardin
County
Homemakers

Children's play on Christmas Eve



The UMW would like to thank everyone for their help and support with the annual cookie walk held on December 9th. \$2000.00 was raised to give to missions in our community.

-UMW officers

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia from the UMW. Also, thank you to Candy Callinan for delivering it and for all her visits and support.

-Sandy Herman

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E-mail:
office@kentonfirst.org

Attendance and Offering

	9:00	11:00	Offering	
December 3	70	103	\$7367.95	
December 10	72	113	\$5352.50	
December 17	56	114	7867.25	
	10:00	4:00	11:00	
December 24	186	143	101	\$12,018.00
	10:00			
December 31	102			\$5641.00

January 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4 6:30 Choir 7:30 AA	5 Office closed	6 11:00 AA
7 9:00 Worship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship	8 6:30 Trustees 7:30 AA	9 4:00 NOC mtg 6:30 Bells, Boy scouts	10 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Kids' Club, Bible Study, mid- dle school youth	11 6:30 Choir 7:30 AA	12 Office closed 8:30 Life-Line screening	13 11:00 AA
14 9:00 Worship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship	15 6:30 Children's Ministry meeting 7:30 AA	16 9:30 Knitters 5:30 SPR mtg 6:30 Bells, Boy scouts	17 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Kids' Club, Bible Study, mid- dle school youth	18 6:30 Choir 7:30 AA	19 Office closed	20 11:00 AA
21 9:00 Worship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship	22 6:30 Lead Team 7:30 AA	23 6:30 Bells, Boy scouts	24 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Kids' Club, Bible Study, mid- dle school youth 7:30 Elizabeth Crl.	25 6:30 Choir 7:30 AA	26 Office closed	27 11:00 AA
28 9:00 Worship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship	29 7:30 AA	30 6:30 Bells, Boy scouts	31 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Kids' Club, Bible Study, mid- dle school youth			