



Monthly Newsletter of  
South Point Community Church  
March 2022 – Volume 55

# The Connection

## A Word from Pastor Dave

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35, NIV)*

"The Swiss Family Robinson", first published in 1812 (210 years ago), spins the tale of a family from Switzerland who is shipwrecked on an uninhabited island. Written by Johann David Wyss, the novel was intended to teach his four sons about family values, self-reliance, the frugal and reasonable uses of natural resources, along with many other Christian-oriented moral lessons such as acceptance and cooperation. Of course in Wyss' novel every person is cherished and valued because they are all part of the family. Furthermore, every family member is needed because, despite their individual weaknesses, they all have strengths that add significantly to their chances of survival. So they learn to accept one another, even cooperate and use their limited resources to survive the best they can. And notably, they certainly have a ton of adventures along the way. At South Point, we have always tried to emphasize the "family" component of what it means to be a church body.

Just like biological families have a common bloodline that binds them together, so Christ's blood gives all of us as Christian brothers and sisters a common organic bond that cannot be broken by a simple difference of preference, opinion or approach. At the end of the day we are still part of the Family of God. Recently at South Point we have talked about our little church family as a Swiss Family, at least in relation to all the Covid politics. We have made every effort to stay relatively neutral about other people's personal medical and political affairs, just like Switzerland. We have tried to manage the health recommendations as conscientiously as we can in order to protect those in our family who may be most vulnerable while at the same time maximizing our efforts to

## March Dates

- 2 - Prayer at Church  
10:30 am
- 6 - Worship Service  
10:30 am
- 6 - Annual Meeting
- 7 - Women's Bible Study  
7 pm
- 9 - Prayer at Church  
10:30 am
- 13 - Coffee Talk Service  
10:30 am
- 16 - Prayer at Church  
10:30 am
- 19 - Men's Breakfast
- 20 - Worship Service  
10:30 am
- 21 - Women's Bible Study  
7 pm
- 23 - Prayer at Church  
10:30 am
- 27 - Coffee Talk Service  
10:30 am
- 28 - Women's Bible Study  
7 pm
- 30 - Prayer at Church  
10:30 am

intentionally stay connected. We are not pretending that it has been perfect but so far it seems we are getting through. But why are we doing all this extra at church in order to stay, "neutral"? Not because we lack the spine to take a position! Not because we don't care enough about people who have been terribly sick and died! Not because we don't care about people whose livelihoods or emotional health have been dramatically affected! It is because Jesus said that the world outside the church family will know we are His followers when they see our **love** for each other; despite our economic, social, cultural and political differences (John 13:35, Colossians 3:16-14). But wouldn't the loving thing be to tell those vaxers or anti-vaxxers the truth?

Dr. Stephen R. Covey, author of the now classic book, *Seven Habits Of Highly Effective People* says, "If I were to summarize in one sentence the single most important principle I have learned in the field of interpersonal relations, it would be this: **Seek first to understand, then to be understood.**" If we genuinely think we have a perspective that is worth sharing we really, really need to listen first. Actively listen and engage until we understand where the other person is

coming from. Along with respect and consideration, part of the idea here is that unless you understand the other person's perspective you won't have a natural point of connection from which to share your thoughts. Nor will you be likely to adequately address their priorities and concerns. But how do you know you understand a person's position on a given topic?

Recently I was reading an article that Pastor Chris Walker from Meadow Brook Church wrote. He said, "A crucial principle is this: if we are to walk in charity, and integrity, then *we must present our opponent's view in its most charitable form*, with integrity. Very few people do this well. It is much easier to exaggerate what we're mad at, accuse it, twist it into an unfair form, in an attempt to discredit it." It seems to me this is such a good litmus test for our true understanding of the other person's position and perspective. When we can state the position and perspective in the most charitable terms it is likely that we actually have gained an understanding of where they are coming from and hopefully enough respect and relationship to then be heard.

## Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning  
that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying  
that we are born to eternal life.

Lord, this prayer paints a beautiful picture of who you are and the perfect life you lived as a man on earth. Your living and dying was clearly for others first.

As we make these words our very own, persuade us to surrender to your spirit moving in us, so that in our living for you and our dying to ourselves, we too will be a positive influence and be used by you as instruments of your peace.

~ Amen





## Barnabas Notes

### “The Art of Listening Well”

How is life treating you these days? If you are like me, there are good days and there are bad days. Sometimes the bad days outnumber the good. Through the last couple of years, we’ve had a really hard time finding some middle or neutral ground to stand on. There is so much information coming at us, from all directions. Can we believe everything that we see or hear? How much of it is “Fake News”. But we can’t help ourselves we have become addicted to the constant stream flowing full of information. And what do we do? We listen.

We all know what it’s like to be hurt, and we all know what it’s like to feel pain, and I think it’s safe to say that we can overcome both hurt and pain and move on to better days. How do we do this? We listen.

Have you ever been left when you should have been loved? Has there ever been a time when you stayed but you should have run? Maybe it’s because we have tried to be real, but instead we’ve really been fake. We want to be right, but we are so wrong. We’ve all made mistakes. And life hits us so hard that we are knocked down. Can you relate? So what can we do? We can listen.

When we are talking, we aren’t really listening, except to ourselves. We are conveying our own ideas and thoughts. And maybe even forcing our opinions on others who may not agree but are afraid to say so. Our relationships can become separated. You see, I don’t really know what its like to be you and what you are going through. And you don’t really know what its like to be me

and what I am going through. And if we want to help each other along in life: We can listen.

My dear brothers and sisters take note of this; everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. James 1:19. Here’s a good example. Job’s friends live a distance from him, but they come together and decide to visit Job in order to help him mourn. For the first seven days, they merely sit with him, quietly. They do not say a word. They support him, let him have his sadness and be there with him in his time of trial. What did they do? They listened.

*I don’t know what its like to be you. And you don’t know what its like to be me. But by the grace of God, we’ll see each other’s heart. IF. WE JUST LISTEN.*

What does listening to God mean?

God promises that we can gain wisdom and understanding when we listen to Him. To listen to God, we must first be open and willing to receive His word. ... God also speaks to us through other people. Always be open to hearing God through people who you trust and that you know have a strong relationship with Him. Practice this and you will be able to master “The Art of Listening Well”.

God Bless

Barnabas

Lyrics referenced from the song “Relate” by For King and Country



**St. Patrick's Day Popcorn**

### Ingredients:

- 4 quarts popped popcorn
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup water
- ½ cup light corn syrup
- 1 tsp white vinegar
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ cup butter
- 8-10 drops green food colouring

### Directions:

1. Place popcorn in a large roasting pan; keep warm in a 250° oven. Meanwhile, in a large heavy saucepan, combine the sugars, water, corn syrup, vinegar and salt. Cook and stir over medium heat until mixture comes to a boil. Cook, stirring occasionally, until a candy thermometer reads 260° (hard-ball stage).
2. Remove from the heat; stir in butter until melted. Stir in food coloring. Drizzle over warm popcorn and toss to coat. Cool. Break into pieces. Store in an airtight container.

(Taste of Home Recipe)

## Happy March Birthdays!



2 - Jocelyn	16 - Jenn
5 - Samara	19 - Nevaeh
6 - Kelly	20 - Benjamin
6 - Steve	25 - Elody
10 - Gavin	

### Covid 19 -rears its ugly head.....

The sound of silence is all around

The dark and quiet so profound

Lake Erie lay in glassy stillness

No wave or shifting water to probe the silence.

No whispers of a storm that day, even birds were hushed  
and far away

No cars went by, no trucks, no bikes

No music playing to keep us sane - just silence.

Three years have past behind our masks,

With eyes down cast so scared and smiles so sadly  
hidden,

Some friends and family lost never to return

Not able to say goodbye.

But the day will come when the virus moves on and  
dies...

And life begins again

Stay Strong and keep the faith -sunny days are not far  
behind.

*Written by one of the ladies from our Bible study,*

*Maureen Sutherland – February 6, 2022*



## Ministry Highlight

This month I would like to highlight a few of our volunteers that have been an encouragement to our church family.

For each picture shown, I have personally been told how they were blessed by the actions of our volunteers.

Each month Donna uses her creative gifts and makes homemade Birthday cards for our church family. She also made Valentine day cards with her Sunday School class this month that were delivered and handed out to some of our seniors, widows and people that have been staying home during this covid season. Shea and Emry have spent many Sundays working with the children that shared their Stick Ministry performance with us. So many people shared how they were so happy to see the kids in the service again. We are so thankful for our worship teams who faithfully share their gifts with us week after week. This month in particular so many people were blessed when Neena played the tambourine and just praised Jesus through her dancing and when new faces like Greg and Emry joined Jenna and Tom and led us in worship one Sunday (there were a few tears of joy that were shed when these new beautiful voices could be heard).

We have so much to be thankful for :)

There are many different areas where you could volunteer. If you have a gift of talent you would like to share with us or would like to learn more about any of our different ministries, please let me know.



## Church

a human connection of love,  
not a building


a lifestyle,  
not a weekly activity

an act of service,  
not a service to attend

|taylor duvall|







BE QUICK TO *listen,*  
SLOW TO *speak,* & SLOW  
TO BECOME *angry*  
JAMES 1:19

## J'Aime's Reflections

Many years ago I got the chance to play with a band in London and I'll never forget a question that the conductor was so fond of asking: do you know what your neighbour is doing? He'd ask that during practice as a way of reminding his players that, while playing your part is vital, you have to pay attention to what is going on around you. It's important to listen to what's happening beside you so that you have a better idea where your part fits.

Unfortunately, some folks have grown up with the false understanding that 'loud' equals 'right.' It's easy to get so wrapped up in screaming and hollering that the concept of listening to others disappears, drowned out in a noise that is neither joyous nor productive.

There are many times in the Bible that we are urged to speak only when prudent, and to be still and listen. James 1:19 says "... let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger." The

dichotomy of that verse is striking as we're being plainly told that our first reaction (the quick one) is to hear. To listen. To be quiet. Proverbs 17:27-28 goes further to tell us that "Whoever restrains his words has knowledge" and "Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent."

Intelligence and wisdom are easily blended together as a single concept when, in fact, the two traits are very separate. Smart people know tomatoes are fruit. Wise people understand that tomatoes don't belong in fruit salad. The Proverbs aren't encouraging us to pretend to be smart or wise – that verse is telling us to be quiet. In your own silence, you may hear something that will inform you or educate you – thusly adding to your intelligence. Being quick to listen will help you grow spiritually. Taking the time to listen to the Lord will guide you to know when your time to speak is and when your time to be silent is (Ecclesiastes 3:7) – thusly increasing your ability to be wise and discerning.

Being loud and unwise is easy. Acting a fool and doing it in a ridiculous way is a good way to draw the wrong kind of attention, feeding into the idea that 'loud' equals 'right.' It takes intelligence, wisdom and courage to be still and be quiet. God gave us all the ability to make choices and it's our responsibility to use that ability, practice self-control and actively work at listening before we speak.

There are absolutely times when it is right and appropriate to speak up and speak out. How do we recognize when those times are upon us? We go quiet, we go still, we pray and we listen. We watch and we wait and, when we finally rise up, we do so informed with the word of God and empowered by the wisdom and grace of the Holy Spirit.

## Brian's Baptism



NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO  
IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN ALL  
WE ASK OR IMAGINE, ACCORDING  
TO HIS POWER THAT IS AT WORK  
WITHIN US, TO HIM BE GLORY IN  
THE CHURCH, AND IN CHRIST JESUS  
THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS,  
FOREVER AND EVER! AMEN.

EPHESIANS 3:20:21 niv

## March Newsletter Question

**Is there a verse, a song, anything that has been an encouragement to you that you could share to help encourage someone else?**

Lois:

Well my verse of late has been Be still and know that I am God Psalm 46:10 which doesn't sound much like an encouraging verse but when you have been forced into being still the verse brings a lot of comfort. And my song list is many but one has topped the chart Yes He can Yes He will. Please remember God is good all the time, all the time God is good wherever you are.

Bonnie:

Philippians 4: 6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with every thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I have read this many, many, many times during the past 2 years.

Shea:

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” ~ Joshua 1:9

Trev:

I was watching the Christian Music Awards show on YouTube. It was great. It was like being at a huge worship service with all of my favorite songs from the year prior. One of the songs that I didn't recognize was Joyful by Dante Bowe. It reminded me of an old Sunday school song that I had in my memory from years ago. It is a very basic song and it didn't really fit into the awards show, in my opinion. But, you know what, I've noticed that when it comes on the radio I have caught myself singing along. It's very catchy and upbeat. Often, we don't even realize the meaning of the words that we sing along with in the songs that we listen to on the radio. We aren't very careful with some of our music choices. I'm pretty sure that you can be confident that this song's words are safe to sing along with. I'm also very confident that it'll encourage you if you allow it to... like I finally did!

Amanda:

The song “Goodness of God” - <https://youtu.be/-f4MUUMWMV4>  
‘All my life you have been faithful. All my life you have been so good. With every breath that I am able - I will sing of the goodness of God’. Has significant meaning especially since I’m on oxygen and struggle, at times, to breath. Never taking my breath for granted and pray I can praise Him with every breath He gives me until I have no more and He takes me home.

Doris:

“I Come to the Garden Alone” has always been a comfort to me. My dad sang it often as a solo or in the Male Choir at LUMC. I can still hear it in my soul.

Keith:

Saw a crocus bud poking through the snow. Spring is coming.

J'Aime:

I have been listening to River of Life by Mac Powell and I find it upbeat, happy and encouraging. It's an up-tempo song with a good message that I can't hear without dancing.

Mary Louise:

The song "Talk To Him - Chris Tomlin with Russell Dickerson (Lyrics)" on YouTube

[https://youtu.be/R4\\_wvC1pJGY](https://youtu.be/R4_wvC1pJGY)

This song has been a great encouragement for not just me, but also for a few people that I share it with.

Dee:

The song “Miracles” by Colton Dixon  
<https://youtu.be/OcOS9j-NXRQ>

Paul:

Toby Mac song 'Help is on the way' reminds me of 2 Kings 6:15 to 17

"When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked. “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them. “And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

THEREFORE  
*encourage*  
ONE ANOTHER AND  
*build*  
EACH OTHER UP  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:11



The way to salvation along . . .

# THE ROMANS ROAD



1. Romans 3:23  
... All have sinned  
and fall short of  
the glory of God.

2. Romans 6:23  
... The wages of sin is  
death, but the gift of  
God is eternal life in  
Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Romans 5:8  
... God demonstrates His  
own love toward us, in that  
while we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us.

4. Romans 10:13  
For "whoever calls on  
the name of the LORD  
shall be saved."

5. Romans 10:9  
... If you confess with  
your mouth the Lord Jesus  
and believe in your heart  
that God has raised Him  
from the dead,  
you will be saved.

6. Romans 8:1  
There is  
therefore now  
**NO CONDEMNATION**  
to those who are  
in Christ Jesus ...

## A SUGGESTED PRAYER:

"God, I confess that I am a sinner.  
I acknowledge that my sins have  
separated me from You;  
and that I deserve the punishment of death.  
But thank You that You gave Your Son Jesus  
to take my punishment on His cross.  
I now put my trust in the sacrifice that He made  
for me; and I receive the forgiveness of my sins  
through Him. Thank You for hearing my prayer;  
and help me to now live for You. Amen."