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# the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

October, 2021

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## 25 Ways to Honor Your Pastor



Chuck Lawless

This year has been a tough year for pastors and church leaders. The pandemic has changed almost everything we do, but pastors have pivoted quickly and worked hard to make adjustments. If ever they have earned appreciation, it's this year. Here are some ways to show your gratitude during this Pastor Appreciation Month:

1. Give your pastor and his family a weekend getaway. Give them a break on somebody else's nickel – and make sure that time is not counted as vacation! These days, it may need to be a driving trip, of course.
2. Do some tasks for him and his family. Rake the leaves. Cut the grass. Wash the cars. Paint a room. Power wash the deck or the house. Do something that helps him.
3. Catalog his books. Computer tools allow you to catalog books [see Appreciation, next page](#)

## Pastors' Zoom Mtg

The next pastor Zoom Meeting for fellowship and prayer is the third Thursday, Oct. 21 at 7 PM. The Zoom meeting ID is 82809528256 and can be accessed by clicking on the following button if this document is a PDF:

[Zoom Mtg](#)

## Annual Meeting - Oct 16, 9 AM

Our next scheduled business meeting will be the Annual Meeting at the Associational Office (aka Grace Place and Austin Village BC),



the morning of Saturday, October 16. In conjunction with the meeting the state convention will be hosting "Engage Now ... Advancing the Kingdom" which will include these speakers and workshops:

- **Duane Floro:** Missions & Ministry in your community and available resources
- **Jean DiFilippo** (and Cathy Pound): Women on Mission. Jean is the Ohio WMU Leader.



- **April Alexander:** Engaging Children and Youth in Ministry. She serves in Heart Reach Neighborhood Ministries in Youngstown.
- **Brent Beck:** Ministering through Media. How to use websites, social media, live stream, etc.



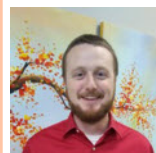
We will have two workshop sessions followed by our annual meeting, the annual message, and then lunch.

The annual message will be presented by Dan Barker, the pastor of Cortland Trinity Baptist Church. The special music will be provided by Rachel Joy-Tupaj and Leslie Kitchen.

In addition we will hear from those who served in the mission trip to Lynch, KY. We will hear more about the new vision for next year: Advancing the Kingdom ... One Soul at a Time.

## New SVBA Pastors

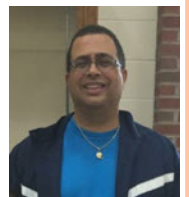
We welcome new pastors in our association. Pastor Dennis Sevick and Luana now serve at Memorial BC in Poland. They come to us from southwest Pennsylvania.



Pastor Adam Hunt now serves at Living Water BC. He and his family come from northwest New York

## Missions & Ministry

Luke 10:1-3 *After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He*



Rafael Cruz Jr

*told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am*

[see M&M, next page](#)

### Appreciation, from previous page

- quickly, but somebody has to do the labor. Save your pastor the work.
4. Provide gifts for his wife and children. The church that loves a pastor's family will have a pastor who loves them.
  5. Prepare a notebook of "thank you" notes. I still have and cherish a notebook of notes that folks wrote to me as their pastor.
  6. Give him an Amazon tree. The "tree" might be only a big twig or an artificial plant, but the leaves are Amazon gift cards. Every pastor I know wants more books.
  7. Make a personal commitment not to speak ill of him – or listen to those who do. Support him in front of others.
  8. Update and upgrade his office. Paint the walls. Provide new furniture. Replace outdated wall paintings.
  9. Give him a new computer. If he's like the rest of us, he's used his current one for many, many Zoom meetings and recordings this year!
  10. If you've been sitting a while in church, start serving. I assure you he'll appreciate every believer who gets more committed to God and His work.
  11. Provide a framed picture of your church building. I have pictures of both churches I pastored hanging on my office wall, and I'm grateful for those congregations every time I look at the pictures.
  12. Offer five nights of childcare over the rest of the month. Give your pastor and spouse the opportunity to have several date nights this month.
  13. Give him time and funds to attend a conference he wants to attend. Even if he already receives a conference benefit, increase it for this year.
  14. Set aside a special day to honor his wife. If you really want to

- make your pastor happy, focus on his wife instead. A great day for her is a great day for him.
15. Send him a video thank you note from your family. Take a few minutes, record a short video greeting and "thank you," and send it.
  16. When travel allows again, give him a trip to Israel. Your pastor will never approach the Bible or the pulpit the same way after walking in the Holy Land.
  17. Make a commitment to pay his costs to earn a doctoral degree. Make a long-term commitment to help your shepherd get that degree he wants.
  18. Give him and his family a local gym membership. Because you appreciate them, help them live longer by staying in shape.
  19. Help him participate in his hobby. If his hobby is golf, give him several rounds of golf. If it's reading, give him Amazon cards. Give him something you *know* he'll enjoy.
  20. Detail his car. Clean it. Wax it. Change the oil. Fill it with gas. Give it back to him with a few restaurant gift cards in the front seat.
  21. Give him a commentary set, one or two volumes per month. That way, this year's appreciation gift keeps on giving.
  22. Have the church's children write him notes. Few things melt a pastor's heart like the simple, honest words of children.
  23. Give him an extra week of vacation. Even if it's only for this year, he'll be appreciative.
  24. Commit to praying for him daily – and then be sure to do it. Let him know you're doing it, too. He'll be grateful.
  25. Ask him, "What can I do to most help you?" You might be surprised by his answer. He might have immediate needs.

*Chuck Lawless is a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*

### Pastors' Luncheon

Duane Floro is inviting all pastors and wives in SVBA to lunch at Olive Garden in Boardman, Friday, October 15, the day prior to the SVBA annual meeting. Please call the office to add your name(s) for a total count.



### Pastor Invite

Pastors, you are invited to join a presentation from Dr. Erwin Lutzer, the pastor emeritus of the Moody Church in Chicago on the morning of November 1. Pastors in the Youngstown area can meet at Teen Challenge on the northside of Youngstown. This will be a Zoom call so if you are not in the area you might still be able to attend.



For more information contact Bro. Gary

### Annual Church Profile

Did the title surprise you? The initials for the title produce "ACP." Oh yeah, it is that time of year again. The paperwork will be arriving soon. The recommended deadline for this year is October 31 to compile information and enter that into the web site. Thanks.

Remember to update the names of the people whom your church elected to be messengers and representatives to vote in the SVBA meetings.

If you need assistance entering the numbers into the website then you can bring your paperwork or numbers to the annual meeting and we can do it there!

**M&M, from previous page**

*sending you out like lambs among wolves.*

It was Jesus who had compassion for the lost and sent His 72 disciples out to be His witnesses. It is Jesus who loves the lost. It is Jesus who died for the souls of the lost. It is the will of God that His disciples of today go out to the field to reap the harvest of the lost souls.

Throughout 2021 we have been experiencing the power of God at work in street gangs, prostitutes, drug addicts and even nice people. All are sinners in need of a Savior. COVID hasn't stopped Satan as we have seen violence increase not only locally, but internationally! Our children, as young as five years old are being indoctrinated into believing that you can choose your gender and sexual identity, and that all choices are equal and acceptable! More of our youth are becoming atheists, hateful and rebellious. The days are more evil now than they have been for almost two thousand years! The end is near!

So, what's the answer to all the depraved chaos? It's more like, "Who's the answer?" Jesus is still the answer for a lost and messed up world. The answer is in your heart and in your soul if Jesus is your Lord. There's still hope for the lost as long as the Church is faithful. Be faithful in sharing Jesus, and God will be faithful to do His part in saving souls.

God bless you,  
Rafael Cruz Jr.

## Human Trafficking

First Baptist Church of Newton Falls is hosting an awareness presentation on human trafficking, Sat., Oct 23, at 7 PM. Those attending must be at least 16 years of age.

The presenters will be Jean Di-Filippio, current President of Ohio WMU, and Teresa Bailey, the leader of the Ohio 2X2 WMU Human Trafficking Awareness Team.

The attendees will learn about Human Trafficking in Ohio and will be made aware of what to be on the lookout for as they are out and about in their own communities.



Surprising statistics and situations will be shared. Because of this only those age 16 and up are invited to attend.

## Sympathy

Our sympathies go to Pastor Joe Sheely in the loss of his mother.

## Association Music

New Covenant Baptist Church, 1606 Salt Springs Rd, Lordstown (across from the Fire Dept.) is inviting SVBA Church Choirs, Groups or Soloist to join in an evening of music and fellowship Sunday, Oct 31st at 6 pm. If interested in ministering in song contact Candy Sarisky at [Sewspecial138@aol.com](mailto:Sewspecial138@aol.com)



## Fun Pack Giveaway

Grace Place Ministries is sponsoring a Fall Fun Pack Giveaway on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 3-4 PM. at 545 Commerce Ave, NW, Warren, Ohio 44485. If you would like to participate via donations, we are collecting items to put in bags for children and adults (inside will be candy, chips, gospel message, juice boxes, toiletries, dish soap, paper towels or wet wipes and info about November event). Deadline for donations Oct. 16. This will be a walk by event outside or a walk through event if raining. For additional information, please contact Sandra Parks 330-442-9797.

## Children's Videos

One of our SVBA churches has about 40 to 50 educational VHS tapes designed for children. The church is making them available for another church FREE of charge! Contact Randy Langham for details.