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WHAT WE REALLY NEED NOW IS
AUTHENTIC FAITH

I recently finished a book written by William Wilberforce over 200 years ago. Thankfully, it was edited to reflect 21st Century English. William was a dear friend to both John Newton, the writer of the hymn, Amazing Grace, and the founder of our denomination, John Wesley. The book I'm referring to is titled simply, Real Christianity.

Historians note that it was essential in bringing about the defeat of the British slave trade and in turn influenced the defeat of the American slave trade. I'm contemplating using it for a short-term Sunday school class sometime this next year. In the least, I highly recommend that you get a copy and read it. It's not very long and it's hard to put down – very thought provoking.

As our country is heating up particularly hot during this election cycle and folks to the right and left are pinning their greatest hopes for our nation's ills on politicians and political solutions, Wilberforce's voice, though speaking from the past, encourages us to look elsewhere. It reminds me of what King

David wrote so long ago: "Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the LORD our God." (Psalm 20:7, NLT)

The solutions to all our most pressing sociological problems are spiritual, without exception. According to Wilberforce the solutions we need actually begin with those who possess what he calls authentic or real faith, for not all who claim to possess real faith, truly have it. For your encouragement and upbuilding allow me to share with you William's Advice for Those Who Possess Authentic Faith.

For those of you who possess authentic faith in Jesus Christ, you are a very important member of contemporary culture. Even though that has been the case throughout the history of Christianity, I believe it could be said that never has our culture needed you more than it does today. I encourage you to take your role in society with a great deal of serious consideration.

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The roles you play are crucial. All the research on the subject and all the anecdotal evidence point to the fact that standards of morality and religious faith are on the decline abroad, even more than here in our country. Still, the great concern I have is for the alarming rate that unbelief and evil are growing right here at home. Something must be done to combat this growing trend. If change is to come, it must start with true Christians living out their faith. It is imperative that men and women of authentic faith live out their relationship with Christ in such a way that the Church in our country again regains the respect of the culture and the allegiance of its membership. It is going to take passion to change things, and only those who truly believe are capable of having it. True believers are going to have to go the distance.

You must strive with all you have and with true sincerity to make a difference in this country. By your life and words you must put to silence the voices of ignorant critics of the faith. Be bold to proclaim the name of Christ in this time when many who call themselves Christian are ashamed to speak the name. You may have a greater impact on this nation than that of any politician if you make it your goal to help restore the influence of Christian faith and raise the standard of our nation's morality.

Get going. Be useful, generous, restrained, and self-denying in your manner of life. Treat the lack of positive action on your part as sin. If God chooses to bless you with material prosperity, don't use it on the absurd task of keeping up with the current trends and fads. By using your money modestly and without display, show that you are not a slave to fashion. Be an example of someone who uses his or her wealth for purposes that are more important than showing off or making a big impression. Demonstrate through the way you live that worldly things are not even close to the value of heavenly things. Show that you have riches that have nothing to do with material possessions and which material wealth can never acquire. Seek to form friendships with men and women of other denominations who hold to the essentials of the faith, even if they differ from you in the non-essentials. Work together with them on this great task. Pray faithfully that God might give you good success and that once again this nation might know the joy of living with a vital faith.

We live in difficult times. Pray for this nation. We have all the marks of a declining civilization. Pray that the God who hears and answers the prayers of His people might intervene on behalf of our country and bring a spiritual renewal that might save the nation. People of unbelief might think you are kidding yourself to think that prayer can make a difference. They might think you are like some superstition pagan who depends on God because you are weak. They might compare you to those who really are a bit out of touch. The fact is that God cares for the nations in which His servants live and serve Him. He favors and blesses the land of the righteous (See Proverbs 3:33).

I find it necessary to affirm that the problems we face nationally and internationally are a direct result of the decline of faith and morality in our nation. My only hope of a prosperous future for this country rest not on the size and firepower of our military, or on the wisdom of its leaders, nor on the spirit of her people, but only on the love and obedience of the people who name themselves after Christ, that their prayers might be heard and for the sake of these, God might look upon us with favor.

I pray that this might be a land where the name of Jesus Christ would still be honored and that we might be a place where the rest of the world can look and see the blessings of faithfully following Christ. I pray that if God might so ordain, our nation will be one that spreads to neighboring countries and the world at large the truth and benefits that come to any nation whose citizens confess and practice lives of authentic faith.

Your Servant in Christ, ***Pastor Paul***



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Pastor Paul McCullough

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Connect with us on
Facebook!

facebook.com/bellpoint

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

August 3
Sisters in Faith Meeting
9:30 a.m.

August 4
Combined Service
10:30 a.m.

August 15
Ice Cream Social
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

August 16
Worship & Prayer Night
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

August 21
Children's Council Meeting
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

August 22-25
Men's Walk to Emmaus at
Cornerstone GMC in
Marysville

Sunday Morning Worship Services

Traditional Service - 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:35 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service - 10:30 a.m.

K-4th graders, come join us in Bible Adventures during second service, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

***Please note we will only have one service at 10:30 a.m. on August 4.**

Bellpoint Community Church Groups

(all groups meet at church unless otherwise stated)

- **Adult and Youth Sunday School:** Sunday Mornings, 9:35 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- **Men's Bible Study:** Every other Monday, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Contact Pastor Paul for additional information.
- **Sunday Women's Bible Study:** Every other Sunday, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the McCullough home. Contact Lori McCullough for additional information.
- **Monday Women's Bible Study:** Mondays, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- **Bible Study Book Group:** The second and fourth Thursdays of the month, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Current Study: The Holy Spirit, Activating God's Power in Your Life by Billy Graham.
- **Teen Disciples** (6th - 12th grades): Sundays from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- **Young Family:** Biweekly at the Kraick home. Contact Holly Kraick at 317.670.5725 for additional information.

August Birthdays

Aug 1	Linda Gilliam
Aug 5	Teresa Watkins
Aug 11	Tyler Emlich
Aug 14	Elva Swearengin
Aug 17	Christian Emlich
Aug 22	Austin Kelleher
Aug 25	Jeff Kidd
Aug 26	Tim McCullough
Aug 30	Ryan Haney

Happy Anniversary

August 5

Mark & Roberta VanGundy
Married 35 years

August 12

Mike & Susan Ritchie
Married 24 years

August 15

Ron & Cindy Kuhn
Married 48 years

Teen Disciples

6th - 12th grades - Meets Sundays at Church from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

August 18: Car Wash at 5/3 Bank in Powell 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Children's Council

- ♦ **Bible Adventures** - Kiddos in K-4, after the opening worship music during second service we head down to our room. Anyone interested in helping in any capacity can see Susan Ritchie for more details. It is not your average Children's Church, it's an Adventure!
- ♦ **Nursery Volunteers** - Thanks to all who have stepped up to play with and minister to our littlest ones! If you are not yet on the list and would like to be, please see Susan Ritchie to sign up.

Sisters in Faith

The Bellpoint Sisters in Faith would like to thank the congregation for their generosity and support with the collection for Turning Point. Kelly's trunk was full! They especially appreciated all of the toilet paper that was donated. Thank you also to those that helped load it on Sunday after church.



The Sisters in Faith will be meeting on **Saturday, August 3rd, at 9:30 a.m.** All ladies are welcome to attend and find out more about this wonderful ministry!

Prayer Requests

- ♦ **Rusty & Family** – Rusty’s son, Brian died in a motorcycle accident on Sunday at age 21 (Miller)
- ♦ **Will Liphart** – recovering from kidney removal surgery
- ♦ **Paul T.** – amyloidosis
- ♦ **Virginia Daugherty’s Daughter** – aggressive skin cancer, stage four
- ♦ **Gideon** – three-year-old with a failing heart (Kidd)
- ♦ **Susie Rinehart** – gallbladder surgery, in lots of pain
- ♦ **Tonya Rees** – pulmonary embolism in both her lungs (Sayer)
- ♦ **Jessica Wolf** – prayers for healing
- ♦ **Barb** – sciatica
- ♦ **Ty** – migraines
- ♦ **Mary Klunk** – recovering from a double lung transplant
- ♦ **Michelle Witherspoon** – breast cancer (Williams)
- ♦ **Kyle** – melanoma
- ♦ **Lisa** – needs a double mastectomy and is in economic distress
- ♦ **Charles** – cardiac issues (Davis)
- ♦ **Noelle** – struggling with severe emotional problems (Sayer)



Prayer Chain

Are you looking for a way to serve Bellpoint Community Church and our community? Prayer is a powerful way to make an important difference in someone’s life. The Prayer Chain is always looking for new members for this vital ministry, so please call the church office if you are interested.

If you hear of a concern or praise there are multiple ways to share the information with our Prayer Chain:

- ♦ Complete a paper prayer request located on the back of each chair and drop in an offering bag or one of the clear boxes in the entrances to the fellowship hall and sanctuary.
- ♦ Contact Brooke Williams, the church office manager, by phone at 740-369-5956 or by email at office@bellpointchurch.com.
- ♦ Post to the online prayer wall at bellpointchurch.com/prayer-wall.

awaken

LAY EQUIPPING WEEKEND
Allegheny West Annual Conference

September 6-7

Friday 6-9 PM &

Saturday 8:30AM-4:30 PM

\$50

Snacks, Breakfast, and Lunch included

Cornerstone Global Methodist Church

207 S. Court Street

Marysville, Ohio



*Register using the QR code or at
www.alleghenywestgmc.org/awaken*

Do you feel a nudge to follow God more closely as a disciple?
Sign up for **Awaken!** This event will focus on:

- What it means to be shaped as a leader in the Global Methodist Church
- How we can grow through abiding in God & means of grace
- Ways God calls us to serve through our unique spiritual gifts and experiences

Join us as we gather with other disciples from the Allegheny West Conference of the Global Methodist Church as we worship, learn, and grow together.

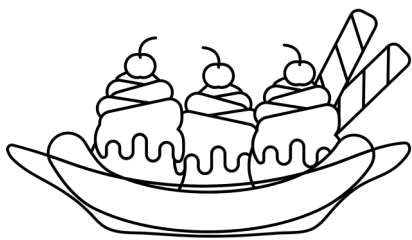
This event is designed for individuals and teams who want to grow in their spiritual leadership, and Awaken is also the first component of our certified lay ministry training. The rest of the training will be completed through four day-long equipping sessions focused on congregational care, teaching the Bible, being Global Methodist, and missions/evangelism. At our September Awaken event, we will share dates for these sessions. If anyone in your church is interested in certified lay ministry or feeling any sort of "call", this is a perfect place to invite them to learn more.

Questions? Email Kathy Rohrs at kathy.rohrs@gmail.com

Buckeye Gear

On the second Sunday in August, David Adams will be selling buckeye necklaces, chokers, bracelets, and keychains at church for \$5.00 each. He will also have buckeye garland that can be ordered ahead of time for \$3.00/foot and paid for on that day. Payment can be made with cash or check payable to David Adams. Dave will donate all sales to the church.

For questions or to order ahead, please reach out to David Adams at 614-638-1222.



Last Ice Cream Social of the Summer

Be a part of the tradition by donating food items for the menu, helping during the social (see the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall), or joining us for dinner that night. Carry-out is also available. Join us for food, fellowship, and fun. See you there on **August 15!**

Friendship Table

Don't forget about our Friendship Table on the **second** and **fourth** Sundays each month! Enjoy some coffee, juice or milk, and a donut, etc. during Sunday School or before the worship services. Please keep all food and beverages in the Fellowship Hall or in your Sunday School room (if your teacher is okay with it).

There is a sign-up sheet available in Fellowship Hall if you'd like to sign up to provide for the Friendship Table. It is intended to be just a light snack, not a full breakfast, so anyone could do it!



The Peal

If you do not have access to the internet or email, or simply prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you each month, please contact Brooke Williams, the church office manager at 740-369-5956 or by email at office@bellpointchurch.com.

Just a Reminder...

Please email all articles, pictures, and content for the September Peal to Rachel Kapraly at peal@bellpointchurch.com by **Friday, August 23rd**. Thank you in advance for your assistance!