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**MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

*(re-printed from August 2010 'Brother Gabe Writes.....')*

Went shopping for groceries the other day. The label read..."Blueberry Pomegranate, 100% juice, all natural." Nice attractive picture on the bottle too !

I began to read the ingredients list, "Filtered water, pear juice concentrate, apple concentrate, grape juice concentrate." Whatever became of the blueberry and pomegranate ???

By law, the ingredients should be listed and obvious to the consumer. So what did I have in my hand other than a container at best...of what? No blueberry or pomegranate !

I returned the container to the shelf, and left the store empty handed and wondering. What if I had the ingredients list printed on me?

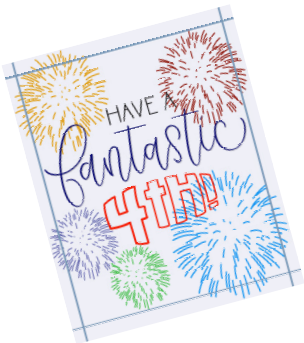
Would God, would Jesus, be the main ingredients....would the Holy Spirit be involved? What about love, or kindness, compassion, goodness, loyalty, a burden for others, etc.?

Or would I falsely project a misleading outward appearance with cleverly masked diluted ingredients? Would my "label" truly represent my contents?

We can all look and sound like the real thing, but what if someone came to us looking for Jesus beneath our "Christian" label and found something and/or someone else? Perhaps something that is "Jesus flavored" but not "Jesus filled"? (adapted)

So, where are you in all of this? Walking the walk? Or just talking the talk? Does your outside coagulate with your inside? If not...why not? As Christians, we are called to be like Jesus in every way, how do you measure up? Don't put your faith "back on the shelf"!

In Christian Love,  
Bro. Gabe (Mraz)



# reflections..

## "Summer Rain"

Oh, what is so pure as the glad summer rain,  
That falls on the grass where the sunlight has  
lain?  
And what is so fair as the flowers that lie  
All bathed in the tears of the soft summer sky?

The blue of the heavens is dimmed by the rain  
That wears away sorrow and washes out pain;  
But we know that the flowers we cherish would  
die  
Were it not for the tears of the cloud-laden sky.

The rose is the sweeter when kissed by the rain,  
And hearts are the dearer where sorrow has lain;  
The sky is the fairer that rain-clouds have swept,  
And no eyes are so bright as the eyes that have  
wept. —Fannie Sherrick

# July 2019 Calendar



**July 7 ... Matthew Kuttler will be bringing the message.**  
**July 14th ... Larry Burgett from Canton Christian Home will be bringing the message.**  
**July 21st ... Scott Davis will be bringing the message.**  
**July 28th ... Steve Elkins will be bringing the message. (Christmas in July.)**



1<sup>st</sup> Joy Singer  
Lynn Schmidt  
7<sup>th</sup> Richard Kelly  
14<sup>th</sup> Jason Shinn  
21<sup>nd</sup> Dustin Reiter  
27<sup>th</sup> Bob Shinn  
Nancy Hamilton

13<sup>th</sup> Gary & Cindy Eichler

29<sup>th</sup> Dan & Marie Bartels



What an exciting time to be at Phillips Christian Church! We had a very full June and are gearing up for an exciting July!

We want to begin by thanking all the volunteers that put on a VERY successful Family Vacation Bible School on June 9th. We had 38 in attendance (14 children, 2 teens, and 22 adults) and raised \$273.76 for Elkhorn Valley Christian Service Camp to be used for the purchase of life jackets and other swimming accessories for the lake area. THANK YOU to the life guards that manned 'Riptide Registration', the Beach Staff that took pictures at 'Selfie Lagoon', and everyone who made cookies for the 'Guppy Feeding Frenzy'. All of the teachers, volunteers, attendees, and supporters are greatly appreciated for the work you did preparing for VBS. Most of all, thank you for the prayers! We learned a great lesson: "Just keep swimming – God is in control!"



On Father's Day, we passed out a small gift to every gentleman present compliments of the Sunday School Department.

We also want to take a moment to thank all that preached during the month of June: Allen Jolly, Dave Miller, & Doug Barber.



Our July speaker schedule is already filled as follows:

July 7: Matthew Kuttler

July 14: Larry Burgett from Canton Christian Home.

He will spend the Sunday School Hour updating is on the Home.

July 21: Scott Davis

July 28: Steve Elkins

On July 28th, we are having a "Christmas in July" service. Steve Elkins has been working very closely with us to plan for this worship service. There will be all of your favorite Christmas hymns, special music, Christmas decorations, and a special sermon entitled "How the Grinch Almost Stole Christmas". Please invite all your friends and wear your favorite Christmas tie or red & green to this uplifting and special worship service.

We are in an exciting & uplifting time at Phillips Christian Church. We hope that you attend and bring a friend or two. July is going to be a lot of fun and we have more planned for August (but stay tuned for that!)

God has blessed Phillips Christian Church for 190 years with no signs of slowing down! ---Cody Opsitnik



# Need Prayer

Our Congregation,  
Our Nation,  
Our Leaders,  
Lost Souls

Northeast Ohio Bible College

George Faull (strength)

Steve Singer (blood condition)

Mandy Fitch (dialysis; needs kidney transplant)

Jean Fluharty (sister, health issues)

Tom McKenna (recovering from 2nd brain surgery)

Bob Stein (brother continues to heal)

David Stein (brother, health problems)

June Toalston (son-in-law's mother, cancer)

Mary Lou and Jim Eberhart (cousins, health problems)

Joan Shoop (health problems)

Jim Webber (heart problems)

Shirley Bartholow (health problems)

Debbie McKinley (breast cancer)

Bettie Wheeler (broken shoulder, improving)

Please be in prayer for Alma Smith and her family.

Multiple family members are experiencing serious health problems

Nathaniel Davis (immune system problems)

Bill Wiley (health issues)

Elizabeth Thatcher (health problems)

Gladys Laughlin (health problems)

Lynn Schmidt (starting treatments)

## SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Joe Phillis & Family, Fort Benning, GA

Joel Newburn & Family, back in the USA

Kyle Stephenson & Family, Germany

## OUR SHUT-INS

Pat Kalbfell, (Essex)

Wanda Huston, (Allay)

Ada Bailey

Nita Floor, (Courtyard)

Nick Cosma, (Crandall)

## OUR MISSIONS

Canton Christian Home

Elkhorn Valley Christian Service Camp

Hasten

Lifeline Christian Mission

Noah

PCC,

Thank you so much for the gas card and the book! The gas will help me get to college and the book will be a good read after studying! I plan to further my education at The Ohio State University!

In Christian Love, Anthony DiBaggio



Dear Phillips Christian Family,

Thank you so much for the devotional journal and gas card! Both are very much appreciated! The gas card will be handy during my trips back and forth to Mansfield and the journal is definitely coming with me, too. Thank you for your continued support throughout the years. I am so grateful for each and every one of you. With Love, Kaylie Shinn

Dear PCC,

Thank you for the gift card for graduation. Thanks for all your support for my college career. Love, Dominic DiBaggio





# PHILLIPS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

35459 SALEM GRANGE RD

SALEM, OH 44460

Church: 330-332-4467

**Email:** [phillipschristianchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:phillipschristianchurch@hotmail.com)

SERVICES:

SUNDAY

9:00 am ... Sunday School

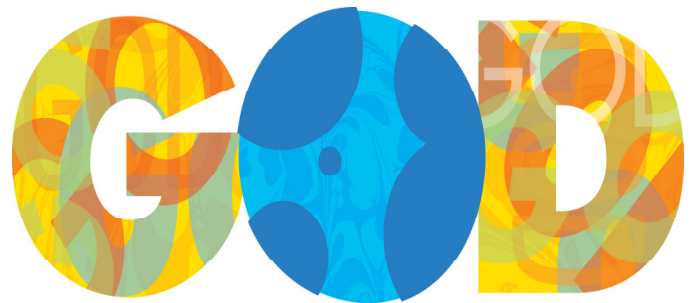
10:00 am ... Worship

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

[www.phillipschristian.org](http://www.phillipschristian.org)



## God is everywhere



We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time. This is not just a fable or a nice story. It is true. If we abandon ourselves to God and forget ourselves, we see it sometimes, and we see it maybe frequently. God shows himself everywhere, in everything — in people and in things and in nature and in events. It becomes very obvious that God is everywhere and in everything and we cannot be without him. It's impossible. The only thing is that we don't see it.

—Thomas Merton