

## DESIDERATA

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.  
As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons.  
Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.  
Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.  
If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter;  
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.  
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.  
Keep interested in your career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.  
Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery.  
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals;  
and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself.  
Especially, do not feign affection.  
Neither be critical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.  
Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.  
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.  
You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.  
Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.  
With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

~ Max Ehrmann 1927



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*No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

## WHAT'S GOING ON AT ZION?

[www.zionuccsteubenville.com](http://www.zionuccsteubenville.com)

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



### IN OUR CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Bill Bertram, Marlene Rhueff, Steve Panyi, Toots Ross, Betty Sparr, Annette Iannetti, Karen Orwick

➤ If you would like to be remembered in prayer or know of someone who would appreciate being included in this list, please contact the church office.

### PASTOR COY

If you would like to meet with Pastor Coy, please make an appointment with the church office at **740-282-1793**. If you would like to get a hold of Pastor Coy directly, his cell number is **330-301-0551**.

### NOW LIVESTREAMING!

We're now livestreaming our church services on you tube. Check us out! Zion UCC Steubenville <https://youtube.com/@zionucc6794?si=EnSIkaIECMiOmarE>

### ANNUAL MEETING

Council has selected **March 2** for the annual congregational meeting.



## *Pastor's Pen*

Not long before his death, Henri Nouwen wrote a book called *Sabbatical Journeys*. He writes about some friends of his who were trapeze artists, called the Flying Rouvelas.

They told Nouwen there's a special relationship between flyer and catcher on the trapeze. The flyer is the one that lets go, and the catcher is the one that catches. As the flyer swings high above the crowd on the trapeze, the moment comes when he must let go. He arcs out into the air. His job is to remain as still as possible and wait for the strong hands of the catcher to pluck him from the air.

One of the Flying Rouvelas told Nouwen, "The flyer must never try to catch the catcher." The flyer must wait in absolute trust. The catcher will catch him, but he must wait.

Who do you trust? Who is worth waiting for in your life? (Lamentations 3:25) "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks him" I suppose if I were a trapeze artist I would have to trust my catcher that they would do just that, catch me. It takes a lot of practice and trust. So on a trapeze, so with God. It takes a lot of practice, trial and error, doing what is right in our lives and having a relationship with God to know that He will catch us. Just like with anything worthwhile it is a two-way relationship. Unlike with earthly relationships, sometimes if we have hurt someone or they have hurt us the relationship is over. Not so with God! We hurt him repeatedly and He still waits. We only need to look for Him and come back to Him. Even though we have moved away from Him, He still waits patiently for us to ask for forgiveness and walk the right path beside Him. God is looking especially for three crucial qualities: humility, faithfulness, and loyalty. Isn't that what we are all looking for? It seems we are always judging God! Why would He do this? Why did God let this happen to me or my family? Why didn't He give this one thing to me? Why, why, why? God does not retaliate and do things because we have done bad things. We would all be looking downward for eternity. He lets us choose. Then life happens and our consequences must be lived with, from our own choices, not His. He waits for us to come back to Him. We don't get punished from God by what we do or don't do we punish ourselves. It is just that God get judged and blamed. So If you are not trusting God, who are you trusting? None of us are strong enough to do the flying and the catching on our own. It is up to us to live, fly, do what is right and wait. God the catcher will reach out His strong hands and pluck us from the air. But, we must do what is right. Aim towards Him and TRUST HIM.

Blessing to all,

Rev. Walter Coy