

Interior work is done!!  
Thank you Marvin and Barry  
at Shield Roofing!



# ***Joyful Noiz***

April 18- May 15, 2020 Newsletter

Life isn't about waiting  
for the storm to pass.



It's about learning to dance in the rain!

**Zion United Church of Christ**

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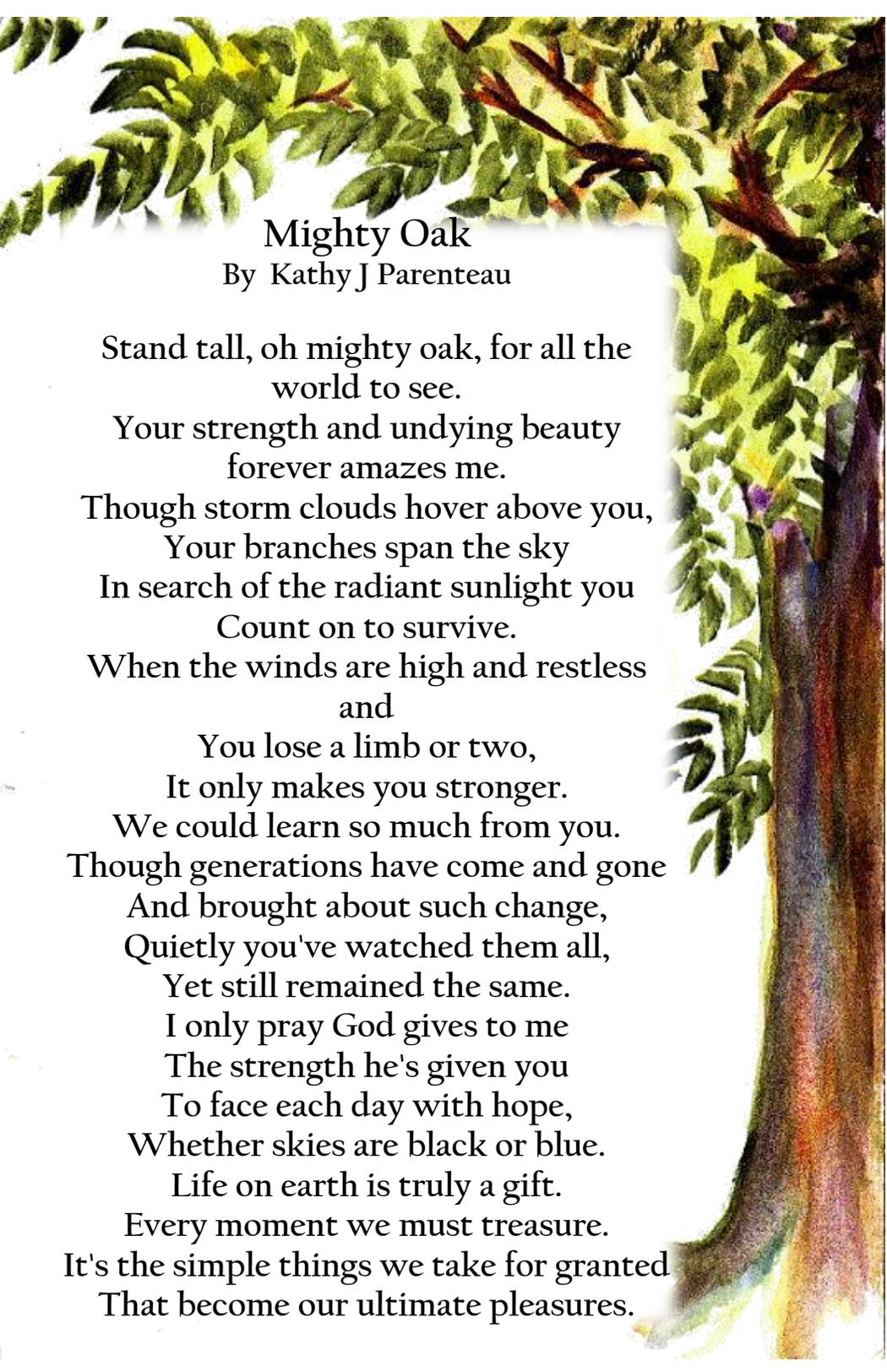
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**Rev. Walter Coy, Pastor**

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**Web address: [www.zionuccsteubenville.com](http://www.zionuccsteubenville.com)**

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



## Mighty Oak

By Kathy J Parenteau

Stand tall, oh mighty oak, for all the  
world to see.

Your strength and undying beauty  
forever amazes me.

Though storm clouds hover above you,  
Your branches span the sky  
In search of the radiant sunlight you  
Count on to survive.

When the winds are high and restless  
and

You lose a limb or two,

It only makes you stronger.

We could learn so much from you.

Though generations have come and gone  
And brought about such change,  
Quietly you've watched them all,  
Yet still remained the same.

I only pray God gives to me

The strength he's given you

To face each day with hope,

Whether skies are black or blue.

Life on earth is truly a gift.

Every moment we must treasure.

It's the simple things we take for granted

That become our ultimate pleasures.

## *Pastor's Pen*

I am deeply moved each time I read or hear a song that reminds me of a gospel account that showed Jesus accepting, including, and deeply loving people. Wherever he went, whomever he met - despite age, race, gender, social standing, and moral failings - Jesus always exhibited that radical inclusiveness. We need to developing friendships that say "Come as you are!" Jesus would say time and time again, "The door to the Kingdom is open to you ....yes, even you!" Think about how far God is willing to go to prove the point that there is nothing more valuable than people. Here is a story.

There once was a man named George Thomas, pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. (Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak) "I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What you got there, son?" "Just some old birds," came the reply. "What are you gonna do with them?" I asked. "Take'em home and have fun with'em, he answered. "I'm gonna tease'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time." But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do? "Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take'em to them." The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?" "Huh??!!Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!" "How much?" the pastor asked again. The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?" The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He

placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free. Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story.

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught the world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist, Got'em all!" "What are you going to do with them?" Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink, lie and smoke and curse! I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!" "And what will you do when you get done with them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, I'll kill'em," Satan glared proudly. "How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!" How much? He asked again. Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood, tears and your life." Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price. The pastor picked up the cage opened the door and he walked from the pulpit.

Isn't it funny how simple it is to stay at home on Sunday morning and let Satan win our soul.

Yours In Christ,  
Rev. Walter Coy

P.S. Come an experience the joy of Christ in your life!!!!

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

If you haven't checked out our website, take a look!

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

*God is still speaking,*

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



### IN OUR CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Mary Hoover, Bill Bertram, Janet Davis, John Rhueff, Dakota Miller, Marlene Rhueff, Barb Mottice, Al & Elaine Panyi, BethAnn Postlewait, Pat Loyszczyk, Vern McCamic, Doug Lewis (Joyce Coy's brother)

➤ 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 CELL PHONE

If you would like to get a hold of Pastor Coy his cell number is **330-301-0551**.

### CHURCH SERVICES CANCELED FOR NOW

We pray that this finds you and your family healthy! Our priority is the safety of our congregation and employees. As such, we will continue to abide by the social distancing guidelines and not have worship or office hours. As soon as these restrictions have been lifted, we look forward to seeing all of God's children in church again! **Stay safe brothers and sisters!**

**Pastor Coy** is available by phone at **330-301-0551**.

**John Diekmann** is available at **304-312-6622**.

**Renea Starkey-Hunt** is available at **740-314-9880**.