

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Stake Presidency Message

Coffee and Discipleship

Growing up in a non-member household, I became familiar early on with a power word and its practical use: percolate. Yes, my parents would occasionally ask me to make coffee for them. I learned that if I'd just turn on the right level of heat and let the content of the pot percolate, the full essence of the grounds will be released into the drink. And interestingly, I also learned that just mixing the grounds with boiling water would not do the job.

In life, the brewing (another word sometimes unfairly owned by the world) process can go unaided and take a long time. It's not an unusual experience for me to suddenly realize one day that a doctrine or teaching of the gospel I learned (but didn't instill into my heart) many years ago is really, really true, or that it could have solved a big problem, or circumvented some.

If only I had percolated or brewed more often or more intentionally!

Now, those two words are not in the scriptures. But an even more potent word is.

Without this word or practice in our life, we could have a testimony, be going to church every week, going to seminary every day, and even go through the motions of prayer and scripture reading and still not be releasing the essence of the gospel into our living. The truths we learned would be unprocessed—like an uncut diamond that has little brilliance and limited value.

It is the thing Moroni asked us to do when we first receive



President Wen

the Book of Mormon (Moroni 10:3); it is the thing the Lord commanded His congregation to do at the end of His sermon (3 Ne 17:3). It is — Ponder.

Pondering in the gospel ... pondering in the Spirit is much more than deep thinking because it is deep thinking and deep listening under the power of the Holy Ghost. While I believe heaven is always eager to teach us, our constant motion often keeps us from hearing. I believe when the Spirit sees one of us pausing to ponder, He sees a soul poised to partake. And He will provide.

Oh, that I had pondered more. Unexamined truths are good only for an unexamined life.

And if I could do one thing over, I would be much less concerned with powering through the scriptures with my children than with pondering the scriptures with them. I've come to see that truths ingested do not equate truths digested. And that precepts not pondered often cannot be used at life's testing points.

Our new curriculums are full of invitations for us to pause and ponder. They are not so much about teaching us more doctrines as connecting doctrines with our lives. Through pondering, what entered our mind may then travel to our heart, and then our hands and feet.

Let us be habitual ponderers (like Nephi, 2 Nephi 4:15-16). A richer drink doesn't allure us. But a richer life and a deeper discipleship do.

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Upcoming Dates

- Tuesday, March 19 - Temple Recommend Interviews with Stake Presidency member/ Tallmadge High Council Room 6-7 p.m. No appointments needed.
- Sunday, March 24 - Easthill Branch Conference
- Friday, March 29 - President's Ball 7-8 p.m. Details of the event to follow
- Sunday, March 31 - Fast Sunday
- Saturday, April 6 - General Conference Saturday Morning Session 12-2 p.m.
General Conference Saturday Afternoon Session 4-6 p.m.
General Conference General Priesthood Session 8-9:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 7 - Fast Sunday

New Stake Young Women's Presidency

President - Jessica Wilkinson, Akron Ward

I am new to Ohio and just moved here from Florida about six months ago. I have five daughters, was previously a high school history teacher, lover of hiking, reading, beaching, and soda! I have served in the YW in different capacities over the years, and I love the young women. I have a testimony of the gospel and my Savior Jesus Christ. It is my prayer to share my testimony and love for my Savior with you and the wonderful young women of our stake.

1st Counselor - Emily Springer, New Philadelphia Ward

Hello! I'm Emily Springer. My favorite color is plum. I love the rain and am a native of Washington State. I have a bachelor's degree from BYU in marriage, family, and human development (think "psychology" with a family focus). I've lived in Ohio for over 13 years and in the city of Dover for the past nine. I have three boys which means I have a lot to learn, and I embrace the challenge and excitement of getting to know the young women, their mothers, and the leaders in this stake.

2nd Counselor - Debbie Oda, Medina Ward

I'm Debbie Oda and the only midwesterner in the bunch! Our family took the missionary discussions (twice), and my mom and I joined the church in Indiana when I was fifteen—old enough to have questions but young enough

to trust and implement the answers wholeheartedly. I have been grateful for the gospel and the Church ever since. I met my husband Stan at BYU (in an FHE group), and we are the parents of three grown daughters. We are new-ish temple workers as well. I'm looking forward to serving and loving the girls, leaders, and families of our stake.



Sister Oda, Sister Coulter, Sister Wilkinson, Sister Springer

Secretary - Nicole Coulter, Tallmadge Ward

Hi! I'm Nicole Coulter. I grew up in Kanab, Utah, and moved to Ohio from Las Vegas almost two years ago. I've been married to my best friend Nick for five years, and we are expecting our first child in May (a girl!). I'm in my second year of law school at The University of Akron, which has been a fun challenge. I have served in different capacities with the youth, but this is my first time serving in Young Women. I'm so excited to get to know the girls and the leaders in the stake!

Ice Skating Activity

The Young Men and Young Women of the Akron Stake got to participate in a youth activity in February. Everyone met at Alice Noble Ice Arena in Wooster to have a fun afternoon of ice skating. There was a great turnout of youth (over 150!!) from the stake and their friends. The youth got to skate around the ice rink, play hockey, and chat over lunch.



Wadsworth Ward Window

submitted by Bishop Trevar Withers

The Wadsworth youth spent the month of February spreading love and kindness to their community and ward members. On February 5, the young men and young women spent an evening decorating the residents' doors for Valentine's Day (i.e., "Heart Attacking") at The Inn at Coalridge Assisted Living Center. They also enjoyed spending time talking to the residents and singing hymns with them.

The annual Pancake Breakfast was held on February 9. As usual, it's a casual and fun morning for everyone and a great event for our neighbors and friends.

On February 12, the priest quorum had a game night with a widow in the ward. They enjoyed hearing Sister Demming's stories about her youth and playing a competitive game of iMagiNiff.

The young women made handmade Valentines and treats for the single sisters of the ward.

On Valentine's Day these special packages were delivered. The Savior taught, "Love one another; as I have loved you." The Wadsworth young men and young women had a memorable month keeping this commandment!



Stake Women's Conference 2019

On February 16, the Stake Relief Society held its annual Stake Women's Conference. The keynote speaker was Diane Snyder-Cowan, director of Western Reserve Grief Services, after which there were nine breakout classes. Sisters were asked to make and bring activity blankets for use by dementia and Alzheimers patients,

and more than 100 blankets were donated that day. During the conference, 75 candy bags were made to give to Operation Underground Railroad victims. Cards and quilts were also made at the conference.



BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER SPECIALS

**February 1 to March 31
Black Beans & Pancake Mix**

Black Beans - 30-year shelf life.

A 45.5 lb. can is \$5.00 or
a case of 6 cans is \$30.00

Pancake Mix - 2-year shelf life.

A 4 lb. pouch is \$3.50 or
a case of 8 pouches is \$28.00

Questions - contact
Elder and Sister Juhasz
Elder and Sister Carpenter
6900 Southpointe Pkwy, Suite C
Brecksville, Ohio 44141
440-526-4057
Wed-Thurs 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Ordinances Ready

Recently I was notified that a name was ready for temple work. It was the daughter of my great-uncle. The only information I had on her was that her name was Mary Jones, she was born in 1903 in Maryland, and she had passed away. I decided that I would try to find a little more than just that, so within a few hours, I was able to find a spouse and others. I had an actual death date and marriage date and was able to add children. I found the obituary for her son that listed the funeral home. I was not able to find the death of his wife, so I sent an email to the funeral home to see if they knew if his wife was deceased. They emailed me back and said that she was still living and that they contacted her about me but she didn't want to have any contact. The next day to my surprise, I got an email from her daughter, who followed through with the request. From that contact, she emailed me Mary's picture, some pictures of Mary's siblings as children, the picture of her son who was deceased, and the picture of my grandfather's brother and his wife on their wedding day. I felt the love of my great-uncle, because I took the time to know him better.

If possible, take the time to know your family before you do their ordinance work; it can make a good deal of difference for you.

MISSIONARIES RETURNING



**ROY THOMAS AND BILLIE
JOSEPHINE HENRETTY**

15 MARCH 2019

FROM

**OHIO COLUMBUS
MISSION**

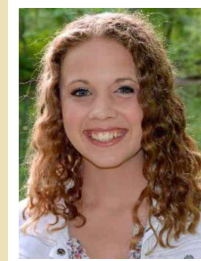


**CURTIS RAY AND SUSAN KAY
PEDERSON**

21 MARCH DECEMBER 2019

FROM

**NEW YORK NEW YORK
CITY MISSION**



**ABBIE JEAN
FLORY**

26 MARCH 2019

FROM

**CHILE SANTIAGO
EAST MISSION**

Monthly we will be highlighting a different Area Plan goal



NORTH AMERICA NORTHEAST AREA PLAN 2019

Deepen conversion to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and the restored gospel.

2. Honor the Lord's Sabbath by renewing covenants at church and worshipping and teaching in the home.

**this month,
make someone's day**

Find opportunities to
volunteer at JustServe.org

JUSTSERVE