

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Stake Presidency Message

Several years ago, President Dieter F. Uchtdorf told a story of a church member eagerly explaining to a neighbor that we have a prophet who speaks to us and guides us with messages from God during conferences held twice a year. The person became quite curious and asked, in a sincere tone, about his most recent conference message.

As I heard that story and placed myself in the member’s shoes, I felt a little inadequate because, although I had certainly listened to our prophet’s words, I don’t think I would have been able to give a just representation of them. General Conference had faded into the overall message of “Live the Gospel.” That’s how the person in President Uchtdorf’s story felt too. We don’t need to feel guilty about not remembering everything about General Conference, but there are ways to benefit more from it than we might normally.

With General Conference coming up next month, I’d like to offer a reminder of how President Russell M. Nelson suggests we prepare. This will be the conference 200 years after the spring day when God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to the young boy Joseph Smith. That visit began the ongoing restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness, precisely as foretold in the Holy Bible. President Nelson promised that this conference would be different than any previously held. He suggested that we prepare personally by again reading Joseph Smith’s account of that First Vision in

the Pearl of Great Price. He also suggested that we ask ourselves questions regarding what our lives would be like without the many truths and blessings brought about through the restoration of the Gospel.

I have listened to Joseph Smith’s account of the First Vision since last conference and have felt the peaceful confirmation from the Holy Ghost that it indeed happened. I plan to read his account again and encourage us all to do so before General Conference on April 4-5. Additionally, I encourage us all to ask ourselves questions. President Nelson gave some guidance on asking personal questions to help strengthen our appreciation for the restoration during his most recent conference message. More recently, he has asked us to ponder on the question, ‘How do I hear Him?’

Many of us put aside some time for meditation or pondering, a very healthy and worthwhile habit. Whether you already do so, or intend to start, may I suggest that during this month of March you dedicate a meaningful amount of that meditation/pondering time to asking yourself questions President Nelson has suggested to us. Namely, what would my life be like without the blessings of the restoration and how do I hear Him.

May we all prepare for this historic upcoming General Conference by reading, pondering, asking ourselves key questions, and coming to Conference weekend with questions we hope to have answered.

If we do so, in the words of our prophet President Nelson in his most recent conference message, it “will be not only memorable; it will be unforgettable.”



President Jensen

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Upcoming Dates

- Sunday, March 8 - Daylight Savings Time begins
- Tuesday, March 10 - Temple Recommend Interviews with stake presidency member/Tallmadge 6:30-7pm. No appointments needed.
- Saturday, March 14 - Stake YM Basketball/Akron 8 am-noon
- Saturday, March 14 - Stake Primary Activity/Tallmadge 10am-noon
- Saturday, March 14 - Stake Health and Wellness Seminar/ Canton 2-4 pm
- Saturday, March 21 - Stake YM Basketball/Tallmadge 8 am-noon
- Sunday, March 22 - Canton Ward Conference
- Saturday, March 28 - Stake Youth Leadership Training/ Tallmadge 10am-noon
- Sunday, March 29 - Fast Sunday
- Saturday, April 4 - General Conference Broadcast Sessions 12-2pm, 4-6pm.; Special Session 8-9:30pm for all members of the Young Women and Relief Society and all holders of the Aaronic Priesthood and the Melchizedek Priesthood.
- Sunday, April 5 - General Conference Broadcast Sessions 12-2pm, 4-6pm
- Tuesday, April 7 - Temple Recommend Interviews with stake presidency member/Medina 6:30-7pm. No appointments needed.

Ward Window



Communication is the Key!

by LeAnn Snyder, Ward Communication Specialist

It was a problem for the Medina Ward members to know what was going on in the ward on a weekly basis. Many members received multiple emails, depending on their membership in various organizations. For example, one person could receive up to four different emails in a week – one from Primary, one from Relief Society, one from Elders Quorum and one from Sunday School or the Young Men/Young Women. To streamline communications and to enable all members to have the details in a single location, a

ward newsletter was started. The program kicked off in January by calling a communication specialist. A central email address was created (medinawardcc@gmail.com), so all organization leaders have a single place to send information for the inclusion in the newsletter and for members to have a single email address to act as the sender. Using email contact information from LDS Tools, a list was created, and the process began. For consistency, a simple header was created with the months and pictures changing, but the emails have a consistent feel and look. The use of headers makes it easy to jump right to the proper section, making it easier for members to find information on the various organization quickly.



The newsletter allows visibility to all members on the ward activities and allows all members to see what is happening in all of the organizations. For example, the Relief Society has a weekly Wednesday meeting to review and discuss talks from General Conference. It is called the Conference Group, and topics are listed and posted so everyone can attend. The Primary is visiting a nursing home facility to sing songs and play games with the residents on an upcoming Saturday. As an additional item, all those we have been called to new positions are also listed in the newsletter. Links are also provided or attachments are included for other important information.

By using the weekly newsletter, all members are now able to receive information even if they missed the announcements at church or did not receive the Sacrament program. The email is sent to all members weekly early Tuesday morning. So far, the feedback from members has been positive and the email also allows the ward leadership to receive tracking statistics so outreach is able to be reviewed and analyzed.



YOUNG WOMEN HAPPENINGS

Recap of 2020 so far, as well as what is to come

The Young Women camp theme this year is “Go & Do” – we have adopted this approach for the entire year!

- * We began the year with a stake dance in Canton on January 4. We will be having more of these informal, casual dances as we have our own sound equipment and will self-DJ the dances!
- * January 11 Mother & Daughter Brunch – We met on a Saturday morning to show gratitude and bid farewell to the Personal Progress program. YW who had recently earned the YW recognition award were recognized. An open discussion was led regarding the new Children and Youth program and its four areas of focus. While questions about implementation were addressed, it is the Spirit that will really teach and lead youth and adults alike. We expect great growth to come! A very tasty waffle bar was enjoyed.
- * Standards Night was held Sunday evening, January 26. The stake youth council helped plan the night with workshop topics of self-reliance, Word of Wisdom, and social media. The stake youth choir sang a beautiful rendition of *I Will Go and Do* and inspiring talks were given by two graduating seniors. Break out session included a PowerPoint presentation, “Healthyland” game, and a discussion. President Coburn gave closing remarks.
- * Ice skating in Wooster on February 29 provided invigorating fun for all youth. It is a beloved tradition. The youth enjoyed skating, visiting, eating pizza, and had a roarin’ time with a special guest.
- * Coming up on Saturday, March 28 is Stake Leadership Training from 10 a.m. – noon in Tallmadge. Youth serving in class or quorum presidencies are greatly encouraged to come to learn how to better lead with the Church’s new Children and Youth Program. Ward youth leaders and bishoprics are also invited.
- * Wards will be receiving further information regarding upcoming activities, including adult training, a service project, camps, a YW retreat, etc.



Family History Corner

by Jeanne Peugh,
Director



Mem'ries, Light the corners of my mind
(Barbara Streisand).

As we get older, we all have memories, some good, some not so good – things that we did, accomplishments we had, struggles we went through. We call it life, but is it not nice to look back through the stream of events and experiences that brought us to where we are. How great it would be to walk through the events of our ancestor's lives as easily as it is through our own memories and experience their lives as they did, through pictures, letters, records, achievements, and other life events. With the features on Family Search, putting together a record of your ancestor's life is easy and fun. Leave a legacy everyone in your family can enjoy for generations to come. *So it's the laughter we will remember.*

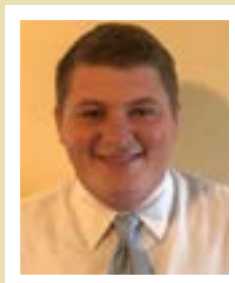
Contact one of your ward consultants or come to the Akron Ohio Family History Center to get help.

BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER SPECIALS



Sister Deb Carter, Sister Mary Jeffery, Elder & Sister Wolter
Wed–Thurs 9am–1pm, Saturday by appt. 440-526-4057
6900 Southpointe Pkwy, Suite C, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

MISSIONARY UPDATES



NATHAN LOCKWOOD

Apr 2018 – Mar 2020

**New Hampshire
Manchester Mission
and
Massachusetts
Boston Mission**

Self-Reliance Corner

by Sister Diane Burgoon,
Stake Self-Reliance Specialist



It's true! Heavenly Father wants His children to have all the blessings that are available to us. There must be effort on our part, however, and He has provided a way that we can seek these blessings. One of the blessings He desires for us, is to be financially self-reliant. You can put gospel principles to work to help you find temporal and spiritual blessings. Consider the Personal Finance self-reliance course: "For those who want better control over their finances. Group members will learn how to eliminate debt, protect against financial hardship, and invest in the future. They will create a financial plan and follow a budget. Spouses are encouraged to attend together."

To find out more, contact your ward Self-Reliance Specialist or Sister Burgoon (330-430-9912 or diane.burgoon@yahoo.com).

For more information on becoming or helping others become more self-reliant, see: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/self-reliance/blog>

The Lord has declared,

"It is my purpose to provide for my saints" (D&C 104:15).

North American Northeast Area Plan



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.

PHYSICAL

SPIRITUAL



You're invited!



- What:** Akron Stake Primary Activity
Who: Children turning 8-11 in 2020 with an accompanying adult
When: March 14th at 10:00 am
Where: Tallmadge Stake Center
106 Howe Rd, Tallmadge, OH

Classes offered (pick 3):

- Music at Home Baptismal Covenants**
Serving Together Preparing for the Temple
Building Unity Through Games

Accompanying adult will attend classes with the child or children they brought



Light refreshments provided after the activity

#strivetobe



INTELLECTUAL

SOCIAL