

The Messenger

Mogadore United
Methodist Church

September 2016

Faith Notes from Rev. Pam: The Best Is Yet to Come?

I recently read an article that really struck a chord with me. Written by the pastor of a small church in England – where the church is basically in collapse – it focuses on what is POSSIBLE for church instead of what is failing. He writes that we need to remember that:



“...it’s possible to believe that in Christ the future is bigger than the past. So much of the church... is limping sadly, like a puppy with a sore paw... [But] Christianity is founded on two convictions: the forgiveness of sins, which maintains the past can be healed by the Holy Spirit; and everlasting life, which claims our future with Christ has no end. Congregations love to tell stories of good things and noble deeds that have happened in their midst. But the best and most prophetic thing... [is to believe] the future is bigger than the past. That’s what makes it an energized and inspiring community. We don’t know, but we’re learning. We haven’t arrived, but the journey’s great. We’re not sure exactly where we’re going, but it’s getting better all the time. We’ve had wonderful experiences in the past, but the best is yet to come.”

What an inspiration! To look back with gratitude on what God has already accomplished through the congregation while at the same time looking hopefully forward into the future God is still dreaming is a bold, courageous, confident, faithful way to live!

Here is what I know: 1) things in a community NEVER stay static, they are continually changing; 2) “outside” changes in a community ALWAYS create “inside” changes in churches, schools, and all other organizations/institutions in the community; 3) those that do NOT change in response to community shifts often face becoming irrelevant and losing hope; 4) EVERY time circumstances changed in the community of God’s people – from Abraham onward – God changed the plan for our salvation just enough to keep the relationship between God and God’s people tilted toward their future together, tilted toward hope. The fact of Jesus makes this abundantly clear – God would go to any length to assure a future with hope!

So, my friends – “How then shall we live?” Can we live comfortable enough with change to anticipate with great hope and excitement what God may be ready to do with us and through us? As the pastor I refer to above reflected, “our church communities have many blessings, a great deal to enjoy and to be proud of – and a lot to learn!”

Do we confidently believe our best years are still ahead? Do we look with hope to the potential that yet lies within, untapped? Are we ready and willing to embrace a humble, learning attitude? Like the Carpenters’ 1970 hit, can we claim with joy and energy, “We’ve only just begun!”? “Easter People” – “People of the Resurrection” – will shout a bold “YES!”

*In constant hope –
Rev. Pam*

Serving Us in September

Worship Leaders

September 4 John Sawicki
September 11 Chuck Lang
September 18 Missy Smith
September 25 Kathy Lang

Ushers

Chuck Lang, Hazel Dunderdale, Fred Slocum
and JoAnn Wolonsky

Altar Flowers

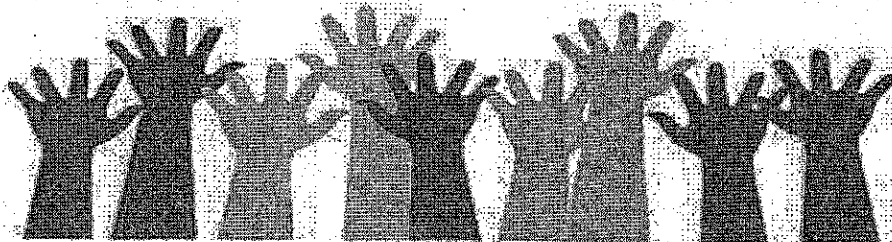
September 4 TBD
September 11 Worship in the Park
September 18 TBD
September 25 Patricia Everly

Greeters

Sonia & Dave Stockett
Vickie & Bryon Wine

Hospitality Room

September 4 JoAnn Wolonsky
September 11 Worship in the Park
September 18 Michele & Doug Straight
September 25 Sue & George Thomas



In Reach

As a reminder, the InReach Committee (chaired by Kelly Rick) has come up with a list of individuals to volunteer their help to you, such as picking up prescriptions, grocery shopping, doctor appointments, etc. Please call anyone on the following list when you have any needs:

Michele Acord: (330) 628-9577 (Cell: 330-607-4387)
Vi Carpenter: (330) 628-1251
Judy Daniels: (330) 628-1200 (after 5 p.m.)
Russ Hull: (330) 628-1552
Tom McClary: (330) 628-4265
John Sawicki: (330) 699-5902 (Cell: 330-715-2151)
Bette Sawicki: (330) 699-5902 (Cell: 330-575-4877)
Forest Thorn: (330) 628-1894
JoAnn Wolonsky: (330) 628-1540 (Cell: 330-400-1438)

MUMC Mission: Sharing Christ's love

Making a difference!

Children's Services was able to distribute over 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies, in part, because of the work crew from our church that helped fill the bags on August 6. A big thanks for a job well done goes to *Ariana Crockett, Vi Carpenter, Pam & Rhett Gable, Joyce & Russ Hull, Pat Stefan, Lynn Straight, and Forest Thorn*. The room that day was filled with energy, assembly-line cooperation, and the spirit of generosity and love. What an uplifting experience for all involved, and what a blessing to those children who get to start the school year with a new bag of supplies that will help bolster their confidence and performance.

Another service ministry we began was delivering frozen meals to clients of the *Mobile Meals* program. Over a dozen people, most elderly with health problems, received warm smiles, cheerful greetings, and nutritious meals from *Carol Groh, JoAnn Wolonsky, Joyce and Russ Hull*.

September Ministries

Mountain of Food distribution at Open-M will be held on **Friday, September 16**. We always have a great time interacting with families and individuals who are blessed by this supplemental food distribution program. If you are an experienced participant, mark your calendar now; if you've never tried it, why not join us for three hours of heart-warming service?

Our other outreach ministry for the month will be providing dinner for the Mogadore High School football team on **Thursday, September 22**. The team, coaches, and families appreciate our support for them, and the workers get to share in the excitement and gratitude from this high-energy group.

Ongoing Collections

- We are continuing our collection of school supplies for needy students of Mogadore. Virtually all supplies are needed, however, consumables like pens, notebook paper, erasers, glue sticks, pencils, colored pencils, and markers seem to be in highest demand, so be on the lookout for deals that will help stretch your dollars and brighten their futures. Collection baskets are in the church hallway where you may drop off your purchases at any time.
- Our other ongoing collection of supplies goes to *Good Neighbors*. Food and household items like paper-goods and cleaners are always needed. Each week the bulletin lists the high-demand item of the week, but any food items you pick up are also welcomed.

Future Opportunities

Akron/Canton Regional Foodbank Sat. October 1st.

C.R.O.P. WALK Sun. Oct 9

Little Sparrow Mission mid to late October

Thanks to all of you for your efforts and prayers, reaching out in Christ's love.

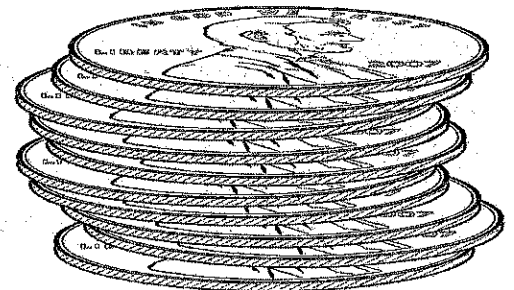
Treasurer's Report

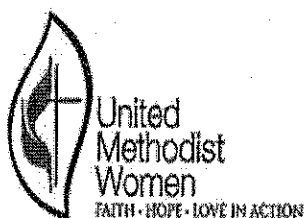
Balance in the General Fund as of January 1, 2016		\$27,349.85
January Offerings	15,135.55	
January Disbursements	15,700.49	(-564.94)
February Offerings	11,510.56	
February Disbursements	10,911.02	599.54
March Offerings	13,823.18	
March Disbursements	11,607.92	2,215.26
April Offerings	14,092.96	
April Disbursements	13,074.21	1,018.75
May Offerings	19,520.38	
May Disbursements	9,871.48	9,648.90
June Offerings	11,128.73	
June Disbursements	13,575.8	(-2,447.15)
July Offerings	13,796.87	
July Disbursements	12,518.70	1,278.17
Ending Balance on July 31, 2016		\$39,095.45

Our July offerings of \$13,796.87 and our July disbursements of \$12,518.70 were both about normal. With vacations and the Mogadore festival, July is traditionally our lowest month of the year for offerings, but with a five Sunday month, this July was much improved.

— Barry Rudy, Treasurer

Each month on the final Sunday of the month we receive a **"Loose Coin Offering"** to support **Open MI**, a mission of the United Methodist Church reaching out to people in need in Akron with healing, education, and food. Their mission is feeding body, soul, and mind. We are among local United Methodist "partner churches" who pledge regular support of their mission and ministry throughout the year. Our next offering will be gathered **Sunday, September 25**. Baskets for your offering will be available as you leave the sanctuary. Thank you on behalf of our neighbors in need! As of December, your loose coins have totaled to a gift of **\$731.73!** Keep up the good work! Let's aim for \$1,000.00 by year-end!





UMW NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER

New Beginnings. That was the theme of our service on August 21 as Pastor Pam gave an inspiring message to all, but especially those who will be experiencing a "new beginning" with the start of the new school year. Ladies, that's us! Each year we come together in September to start another year of UMW.

Yes, we have been together this summer in circles, the mystery trip, and the picnic – but September is when our work as a UMW community begins, and God has much work for us to do. September is also the time when we start to follow a new theme which is chosen by the national UMW Program Advisory Group. Remember, last year's theme was "Growing in Blessedness." This year the theme is "A Call to Community." Most of us are members of multiple communities: workplaces, church, families, Bible studies, circles, quilt groups, committees, choir and the list goes on. Our UMW Pledge refers to us as a "community of women" and our Mogadore UMW does a great job of practicing community. We care about one another, we send cards, e-mails and texts, we call one another, we pray, we bake pies, we provide transportation, we serve bereavement meals, we provide school supplies, we sew book bags, we make flood buckets and health kits, and the list goes on! Following our Purpose, we are a "creative and supportive fellowship." Are there any other women you know who might benefit from being a part of our UMW community? We welcome new members and our next meeting, on **September 27 at 7:00 p.m.** would be a great time to bring a guest. Our program and devotions will be presented by Michele Acord, who is also providing refreshments along with Fran McClary. Let's grow our community!

September will provide us an opportunity to attend **the Fall District Gathering on September 24 at 8:30 a.m. at Centenary UMC in Akron.** It's close so we won't have to get up quite as early to get there! Rev. Steve Court will be the speaker. The district mission focus this year is Heart 4 the City so we will be taking donations of new or slightly used household items (linens, towels, pots and pans, etc.) to this meeting. If you can donate but can't attend the meeting, please drop your items off at church by September 17. See Lynn Straight by September 11 if you will be attending.

On September 12 and 29, we once again begin serving Lions Dinners. As you know, this is how we raise money for missions and all help is greatly appreciated.

Circles are a great place to get to know other likeminded Christian women in a more intimate setting for fellowship and study. Visitors are always welcome, so why not visit one of our three active circles that will be meeting as follows:

Miriam will be at the church on September 7 at noon. The program will be Potpourri! Come prepared to share a summer experience or a memory of school days. Gladys Francis will serve as hostess.

Naomi meets on September 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Daniels.

Rebecca will be having dinner out and then will enjoy a movie. Contact Joyce Hull for details.

Joyce Hull



Welcoming Services for Bishop Tracy S. Malone

There will be four Welcoming Worship Services for Bishop Malone throughout the conference.

Sunday, September 18 at Newcomerstown UMC

Sunday, October 2 at Salem UMC

Sunday, October 16 at Willoughby Hills UMC

Sunday, November 13 at Ashland Christ UMC

Weekly Bible Studies resume Wednesday, September 14 at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

This fall we'll begin with a discussion and video-based study titled **When Christians Get It Wrong**, a look at living as a Christian in the real world of science, politics, religious conflict and suffering. No previous Bible study necessary. Bring your honest open questions. Please mark the bulletin slip if you are interested so we can order books. Books will be \$10 and available by September 4.

Good Neighbors

September 4. Spaghetti/Spaghetti Sauce

September 11. Service at the park

September 18. Peanut Butter and Jelly

September 25. Bar Soap

Thank you friends for your generous donations!

God loves you and so do I! Judy Huth



Calling All Singers !

Do you enjoy singing? Whether you are an experienced vocalist or someone

who just likes to sing, there is a place for you in the Mogadore UMC Choir! Practice begins on Thursday, September 15 at 7:30pm and we will be back in the choir loft on Sunday, September 18. We have a great time with our encouraging and fearless leader, Clay, and our extremely talented accompanist, Matt. Join us!

Words to Ponder...

Our Hymnal is a rich treasury of prayers and psalms and creeds in addition to the wonderful hymns we sing in worship week by week. Sometimes I "hear" the words of a particular hymn better if I read the hymn as a poem-prayer instead of singing, as I'm often so concerned about the tune that the words don't sink in, somehow. From time to time, one hits me "new" and I love to ponder what the lyrics teach us about God and how they reinforce our faith. The following hymn – "How Can We Name a Love" (#111) – was written by Brian Wrenn in 1973. Read it here, and ponder what it teaches us about God's always and ever-present love.

How Can We Name a Love?

How can we name a Love that wakens heart and mind,
Indwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find?
Within our daily world, in every human face,
Love's echoes sound and God is found, hid in the commonplace.

If we awoke to life built on a rock of care
That asked no great reward but firm, assured, was simply there,
We can, with parents' names, picture and then adore,
Love unconfined, a father kind, a mother strong and sure.

When people share a task, and strength and skills unite
In projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight
Our Friend and Partner's will is better understood,
That all should share, create, and care, and know that life is good.

So in a hundred names, each day we all can meet
A presence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.
Yet on these terms alone faith would be weak and dim.
In Christ alone is Love full grown and life and hope in him.

In Christ we find Love; in Love we find our reason for being – as individuals AND as church! Love is the reason for and the essence of everything we do – from worship to picnic to supporting Open M!

*In
Loving
Memory*



A memorial service for Mary Klink will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, September 3 at the Copeland Oaks Chapel. Pastor Elaine Weaver of Sebring UMC will officiate the service.

Worship in September...

Are you weary of all the political ads on TV and in your mailbox? Me too! Human politics is so mean and demeaning and negative! But, my friends, GOD'S politics is glorious, generous, encouraging, and hope-filled! During September, as we prepare spiritually for our national elections, we will turn our hearts and minds toward God's politics and note the guidance given in God's Word about how to choose how we will live together and who is really in control. As the great hymn says, Christ's Kingdom is "a Kingdom of love and light" (chorus, #569, "We've a Story to Tell"). Come open yourself to God's reign!

September 4, 2016 (Labor Day Sunday)

Theme: Christian love is consistently compassionate; church is to be a hypocrite-free zone!
 Scripture: Luke 13: 10-17; Psalm 71: 1-6
 Message: Bent Out of Shape
 Holy Communion

Series: God's Politics

September 11, 2016 (Annual Picnic at Lions' Park)

Theme: The nations are all in God's hands.
 Scripture: Jeremiah 4:11-28; Psalm 14:1-7; Luke 6:27-36; Lamentations 1:1-6
 Message: An Outline of God's Odd Politics ("He's Got the Whole World in His Hands")
 Remembering the 15th Anniversary of 9/11

September 18, 2016

Theme: God's children are to seek the welfare of the city – wherever we are.
 Scripture: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Deuteronomy 10:18-19
 Message: The Welfare of the City: God's Foreign Policy

September 25, 2016

Theme: To be a Christian nation we need Christ-like leaders; God's choice of leaders.
 Scripture: Jeremiah 23:1-8; Luke 23:33-43; Luke 1:68-79
 Message: God's Elected Leader

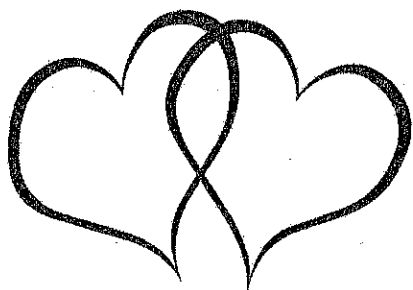
October 2, 2016 (World-Wide Communion Sunday)

Theme: Jesus shares himself with the world; we share our bread with the world.
 Scripture: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-10; Luke 16:19-31
 Message: Breaking Bread: God's Economy/ God's Welfare Program



September Birthdays

September 11 Ralph Lowe
 September 12 Melody Smith
 September 14 Joyce Calderwood
 September 16 Bo Suihkonen
 September 17 Forest Thorn
 September 20 Patricia Everly
 Megan Spade
 September 24 Sandy Datsko
 September 25 Jodi Riggenbach
 Madison Shaffer
 September 26 Jody Waldner
 September 27 Carol Jenkins
 Barbara Schultz
 Adreane Crockett
 September 29 Joe Horan



September Anniversary
September 17 Linda & Keith Hunsucker

ANNUAL WORSHIP AND PICNIC IN THE PARK

On Sunday, September 11th we are once again taking our show on the road to Mogadore Lion's Park! The 10:30 am worship service will be held in pavilion 1 and immediately following the service we will have our picnic in the Lion's pavilion.

We ask that each family bring either a side dish or dessert to share and your own place settings. The meat, corn on the cob and drinks will be provided and prepared by our very own "Grill Team".

There will be games for all ages after our feast so plan to stick around and participate or cheer on those who do. Please invite your neighbors and friends to join us for this special day of fellowship, food and fun. It would be a great introduction to our church family.

In case of bad weather the day's events will be moved back to the church. The In Reach team hopes to see all of you there!

Trip to Little Sparrows Mission Planned in October

Plans are firming up for a team of folks from Mogadore United Methodist Church to travel to Iaeger, West Virginia to offer some time and support to the various ministries of the Little Sparrows Mission. Iaeger is in the heart of McDowell County, West Virginia, said to be the poorest county in America. It is high in former coal-mining territory and remote from most conveniences and assistance. Little Sparrows fills some of the gaps in peoples' lives, especially for the children there who have so little.

Our team may help sort/distribute food, clothing, or lunches; we may have a couple repair/construction jobs to take on; we may make some one-on-one visits to check the general well-being of folks who don't get around much. It will be unpredictable and challenging... and we're sure to meet God in the effort!

Tentatively, we plan to travel on **Sunday, October 16, to spend three nights and to return to Mogadore on Wednesday, October 19.** We will be sharing expenses for food, water, and gasoline, and we plan to take a "love offering" for the work of Little Sparrows from the proceeds of the Summer Festival booth, which all of you so generously supported.

The coordinators of the ministry there report that there is always a need for blankets, personal hygiene items, clothing, food, and other items folks need for daily life. Space allowing, we will take your donations with us and we will plan to make further purchases there or make additional contributions for the leaders there to purchase what is most needed.

It's not too late to decide you'd like to be part of this mission! The team will meet to do specific planning on **Sunday, September 18 immediately after worship.** Please prayerfully consider this opportunity!

The Symptoms of Inner Peace

Some signs and symptoms of inner peace:

1. A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experience.
2. An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
3. A loss of interest in judging other people.
4. A lost of interest in judging self.
5. A lost of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
6. A loss of interest in conflict.
7. A loss in the ability to worry.
8. Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
9. Contented feelings of connections with others and nature.
10. Frequent attacks of smiling.
11. An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
12. An increase susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Author Unknown

On a Lighter Note...

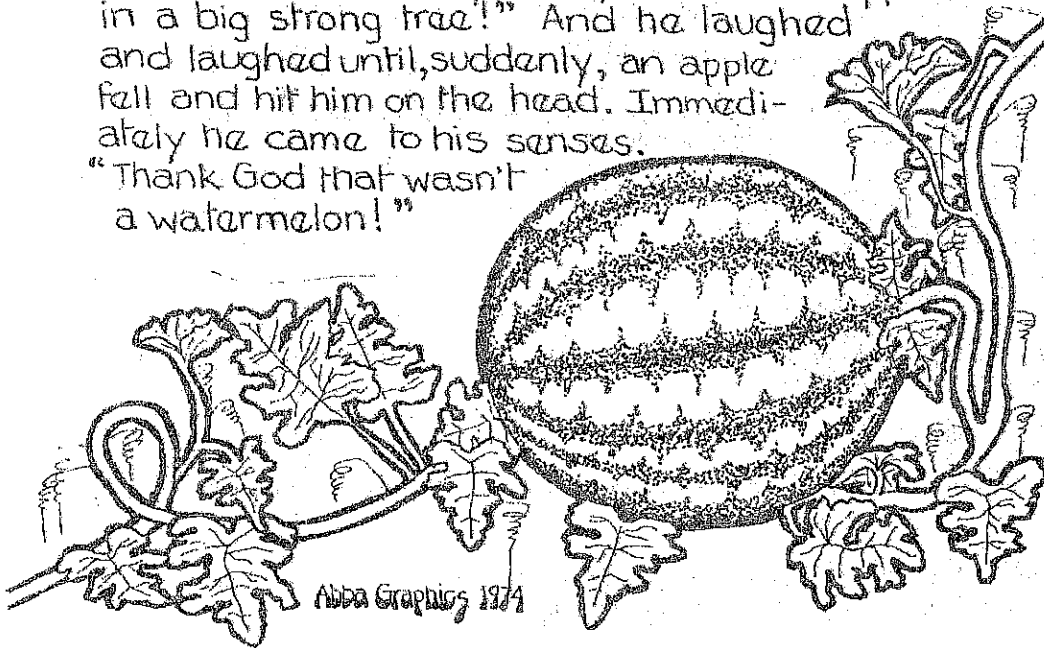
In a never-ending effort to attract the unchurched, some churches have considered translating their unfamiliar terminology into familiar football phrases:

- BLITZ:** The rush for the restaurants that takes place two seconds after every benediction.
- BLOCKING:** Talking endlessly to the pastor at the church door and keeping everyone else from exiting.
- COACH:** The children's Christmas program director.
- ASSISTANT COACH:** Every mother who has a kid in the children's Christmas program.
- COMMERCIAL:** Announcements.
- INSTANT REPLAY:** The preacher loses their notes and falls back on last week's illustrations.
- DRAFT CHOICE:** The decision to sit close to an air conditioning vent.
- DRAW PLAY:** What many children (and not a few adults) do with their bulletins during the service.
- END ZONE:** The pews.
- EXTRA POINT:** What you receive when you tell the preacher their sermon was too short.
- FIRST QUARTER:** What most people put into the offering so it looks like they are giving.
- FOURTH QUARTER:** The amount that makes up the \$1 most people put into the offering when under peer pressure to give more.
- HAIL MARY:** Desperate move made by ushers in a last-ditch attempt to get people to put something in the plate.
- HALFTIME:** 1. Usually during the offertory when people decide they need to use the restroom. 2. The period between Sunday School and worship when many choose to leave.
- HOLDING:** Passing on the offering plate without putting in a cent.
- ILLEGAL MOTION:** Leaving before the benediction.
- INTERFERENCE:** Talking during the organ prelude.
- OFFSIDES:** When everyone who typically sits on one side of the sanctuary switches to the other side for some reason, and/or sitting in someone else's pew.
- BACKFIELD-IN-MOTION:** Making a trip to the back (restroom or water fountain) during the service.
- PASS INTERFERENCE:** A parent moving between two teens in the pew to halt the flow of notes back and forth during the sermon.
- QUARTERBACK SNEAK:** 1. How the pastor gets from the pulpit to the rear door during the benediction. 2. Sunday school teachers entering the building five minutes after classes began.
- RAIN DELAY:** Baptism
- SUDDEN DEATH:** The penalty to the pastor who preaches more than twenty minutes.
- TACKLE:** Asking that "new couple" to sing in the choir, work in the nursery, serve on a committee, join a Bible study, and teach the middle schoolers before they get away.
- PASS:** When the new couple says no.
- TIME-OUT:** Refreshment time in the Fellowship Hall.
- TWO-MINUTE WARNING:** The pastor's spouse looking at their watch in full view of the pastor. 2. The point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.
- UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:** Usually takes place at a committee meeting to decide on the color of carpet or some other thing.

Go Cats!!



The wanderer was very weary and he sat down to rest in the shade of a tall apple tree. A cool breeze was blowing and as he turned towards it he saw a large watermelon patch just a little distance away. All at once he started to laugh. "Oh God, you are so foolish," he chuckled, "You are supposed to be all powerful and perfect, but look what you've done! Those great big melons are growing on a little thin vine, and you've put the little apples in a big strong tree!" And he laughed and laughed until, suddenly, an apple fell and hit him on the head. Immediately he came to his senses. "Thank God that wasn't a watermelon!"



September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 p.m. Yoga	2	3
4 Communion in the pews	5 Labor Day	6	7 Noon Miriam Circle 7 p.m. Post High	8 6:30 p.m. Nominations Committee 6:30 p.m. Yoga	9	10
11 Worship in the Park and Picnic to follow	12 7 p.m. Executive Committee 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	13	14 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Lions Dinner 7 p.m. Rebecca Circle 7 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Post High	15 6:30 p.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	16 Open M Mountain of Food NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17
18 Little Sparrows Mission Team meeting after worship	19 7 p.m. Naomi Circle 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	20 Secretary Training at Canal District Office	21 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Portage Patchers 7 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Post High	22 Football team meal 6:30 p.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	23	24 8:30 a.m. UMW Fall District Meeting at Centenary UMC
25 Loose Coin Offering for Open M	26 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	27 7 p.m. UMW	28 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Lions Dinner 7 p.m. Bible Study	29 6:30 p.m. Yoga 6:30 p.m. SPRC 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	30	



Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Pamela Gable

Church: (330) 628-1232

Fax: (330) 628-1232

Parsonage: (234) 813-9040

Pastor's Cell: (757) 560-5539

Youth Ministries Leader: Caleb Lipocky

Email: mogadoreumc youth@att.net

Cell: (260) 557-2237

Accompanist: Matt Riddle

Choir Director: Clay East

Custodian: David Smith

Secretary: Joyce Selzer

Sunday Hours:

Adult Sunday School @ 9 a.m.

(September through May)

Children's Sunday School @ 9:15 a.m.

(September through May)

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Non Profit Organization

Permit #1

PAID

Mogadore OH 44260

«First_Name» «Last_Name»

«Location»

«Address»

«City» «State» «zip»

Mogadore United Methodist Church
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Find us on FaceBook!

We Invite You

- to join together in worship, outreach, fellowship, and spiritual growth ...
- to strive together to follow the example of Jesus Christ ...
- to grow together to demonstrate Christ's love and service to others.