



# The Messenger

Mogadore United  
Methodist Church

December 2018

## Notes from the Pastor

December is upon us and as I write this, there are trees still holding onto their leaves, and the beauty of fall is still with us.

And the beauty of Advent is to come. Beauty reminds me of what C.S. Lewis once said, "We do not just want to see beauty, we want to become beauty."

December seems to be full of beauty: the hope of a white Christmas, Christmas break from school for the children and students, and a time with friends and family. Advent is a time of beauty as we await the birth of Jesus, the beauty of that night in the manger, the beauty of God's love for us, and the beauty of God becoming human and dwelling with us.

Richard Rohr said that "Jesus did not come to change the mind of God about humanity, it did not need changing! Jesus came to change the mind of humanity about God." This is a beautiful thing, the beauty that we are loved and belong. That we belong to a God that loves us for who we are and not for what we have done. This is the story and the beauty of Advent that God is love. May we share that love this Advent season and beyond.



Grace and peace,

Pastor Eric

Pastor Eric's Schedule for December:

Monday, December 3: Crucible

Tuesday, December 25 — Friday, January 4: Vacation

## December Good Neighbors

- December 2 Bars of soap
- December 9 Macaroni and cheese
- December 16 Canned vegetables
- December 23 Peanut butter and jelly
- December 30 Canned soap or anything that is on sale!



## CHURCH DIRECTORY COMMITTEE NEEDS MEMBERS!!!!



It's been over 5 years since our last directory and we also have a new pastor, so it's been determined a temporary committee be formed in 2019 to assist the company we choose to create a beautiful new directory.

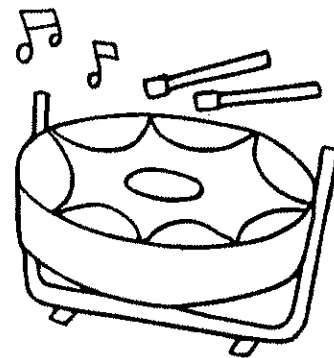
If you are able to help with this project in any way, please let Kelly Rick know or check the box on the back of the attendance slip. We need people with a variety of skills: artistic eye, computer skills, good on the phone, knowledgeable about our members, detail oriented, and to assist on photo days. The more people on the committee the easier and more fun the work will be.

We hope you will consider joining this temporary but important committee.

Each month on the final Sunday of the month we receive a "Loose Coin Offering" to support Open M, 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, December 30**. Baskets for your offering will be available as you leave the sanctuary. So far the church has contributed **\$598.65** for the year!

## NEED A TROPICAL GET-AWAY THIS JANUARY???

Well, the best In-Reach can do is invite everyone to come with us on our annual trip to see The University of Akron Steel Drum Band.



Where: Akron Civic Theater

When: Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.

Cost: at the door \$12.00 for adults. Children 5 - 12 yrs are \$7.00.

Children under 5 yrs are free

Why: Because it's tons of fun and educational

Who: Appropriate for all ages

We will meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. if you'd like to carpool. And as we always do when Methodists gather together we will get something to eat after the concert. If you know ahead you are planning to attend, please let Kelly Rick know for a dinner head count. But if you are the last-minute type we don't need the final count until worship service that day.

## ***MUMC in Mission: Sharing Christ's love***

**\*Adopt a Family.** Once again, we have adopted several families from the community in order to provide them with Christmas presents and food that they would otherwise be unable to obtain. Paper ornaments with gift suggestions are available on the "tree" just off the hallway outside the hospitality room. If you didn't take one last week, please plan to do so this Sunday. Gifts need to be turned in by Sun. Dec. 9. If you can't shop, but would like to donate toward the food basket, just write "adopt-a-family" on the donation.

**\*The Mitten Tree** will be in the sanctuary during Advent to collect hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks for distribution to needy children, to be shared with *Good Neighbors* and nearby schools.

**\* Christmas for the love of Children at Open M** needs volunteer helpers to collect, sort, and distribute Christmas gifts to 240 client families (600 children). Everything is done on location at Open M on Princeton Street in Akron. "**Elves**" are needed to help collect items dropped off. Dec. 5, 8:30 – 12:30; Dec. 6, 11:30 – 3:30; Dec. 11, 4:30 – 8:30. "**Bag Checker Elves**" needed to verify that every child's gifts are present and accounted for, Dec. 12, 1 – 5 PM. "**School supply Elves**" to assemble, label and distribute school supply kits, Dec. 13, 4 – 6:30 PM. "**Distribution Elves**" are needed to spread the good cheer as families come to get their food baskets and gift, Dec. 19, 8 AM – 5 PM. You may contact open M directly for more information at 330-434-0110 ext. 409.

### ***Ongoing Ministry***

**\*Remember Good Neighbors.** Food and household items like paper-goods and cleaners are always needed. Clothing and coats in good condition are also needed, especially as winter arrives. Small donations add up to big help.

### ***The year in review***

The bulk of our efforts this year were focused in Summit County, but Portage County benefitted from 6 individuals providing "hands on" service, and three organizations received cash donations from us as well. Also, some of the CROP Walk money was sent to Portage County organizations.

**Thanks to all of you for your continued support of our outreach programs.** We had 29 "hands-on" activities this year. Approximately 20 % of the active membership participated in at least 3 of those events. A vast majority of the congregation participated in at least one "hands on" promotion and virtually everyone provided prayer and financial support for our efforts.

Our projects included: adopting 7 families at Christmas; providing food items for *Open M*, *Good Neighbors*, and *Haven of Rest*; packing backpacks for *Children's Services*; donating 28 health kits and 1 flood bucket to UMCOR; providing lunch for *Habitat for Humanity* workers; community leaf-raking; monthly food-bank volunteering; fund-raising walks; trunk-or-treat; hosting the community *Christmas in the Village* live nativity; and providing free activities at our community festival, as well as hosting a community outdoor worship service.

**Whether you gave time, talent, money, effort, prayer, or all the above, your church family thanks you for all you do to "feed His lambs and sheep." God bless you all, and have a spirit filled holiday season.**

## Serving Us in December

### Worship Leaders

December 2 Joyce Hull  
 December 9 John Sawicki  
 December 16 MUMC Youth  
 December 23 Caleb Lipocky  
 December 30 Russ Hull

### Greeters

Brenda Heminger and Harry Smith

### Ushers

Michele Acord, Barry Rudy and Forest Thorn

### Altar Flowers

December 2  
 December 9  
 December 16 Missy Hill & Pam Schmidt  
 December 23 Poinsettias  
 December 30

### Hospitality Room

December 2  
 December 9 Beverly Kramer  
 December 16 John & Bette Sawicki  
 December 23 Marie Lipocky  
 December 30

## In-Reach Needs Your Help!

We need your support is in filling dates for the Hospitality Room for the upcoming year. **The first open date is December 2.** Please stop by the bulletin board and sign up for a Sunday or speak with Kelly Rick and she'll fill in your name.



### A NOTE OF



Richie, Roger, Barry and I want to take everyone for their prayers and concern during Pat Stefan's illness. Your support has been amazing and appreciated more than words could ever express.

— Cheryl Rudy

## DON'T SHAVE DECEMBER!

Calling all guys who would like to participate in this fundraising event! Grow your mustache/beard this month of December. We will collect donations in jars: one marked "Save It," and another marked "Shave It."

At the end of December we will count the money in each jar and will announce which has the most collected. "Save It" means you can help your beards/mustaches; "Shave It" means we get to shave your face after church (just kidding!)

All proceeds will go toward the Building Fund.



## UMW NEWS FOR DECEMBER

Holiday Greetings, Ladies. Yes, it is that time again and you know what that means, time for our annual Progressive Dinner. All women of the church are invited, and if you are fairly new, you may be wondering why we call our gathering a "progressive" dinner. I have given this some thought! Of course, most of you know that we used to progress from one house to another, enjoying several courses of delicious appetizers, salads, entrees and desserts. It was fun seeing all the different beautifully decorated homes, but now that many of us are older, we have decided to "progress" from stairs to an elevator! Since our church is fortunate enough to have an elevator, it just makes sense to use Fellowship Hall. Of course, it will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland as it has been the last couple of years. And, we will still progress through delicious appetizers, salads, an entrée and dessert. In other words, eat our way around Fellowship Hall. Hope all of you have made your reservation by now, but if not, be sure to let Lynn know by December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The big event, *An Old Fashioned Christmas*, starts at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who are planning, decorating and providing food.

Our circles will be celebrating Christmas with parties as follows;

**Miriam Circle** will be enjoying a Christmas Luncheon out on the town on December 5<sup>th</sup> at noon.

**Naomi Circle** will be partying on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Hartville Kitchen.

**Rebecca Circle** is dining at the Waterloo on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and then returning to the home of Joyce Hull for dessert.

Don't forget to share a Christmas greeting or visit with our shut-ins; Edith Bednar, Dorothy Pollock, Virginia Reynolds, Martha Sneyd, and Clara Zak.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas,  
Joyce Hull

## BRUNCH WITH SANTA

Sunday, December 16 following the worship service

We will gather in fellowship hall for soup, salad, and dessert where Santa will make an appearance to see everyone and take pictures with the kids and families. Bring your cameras! Cheryl McInturff and Chuck will be singing Christmas carols!

A sign-up sheet are on the bulletin board in the hallway outside of the overflow to bring a crockpot of soup, chili, stew, rolls, salad or dessert. Beverages will be provided.

We hope you plan on attending this family fun event with your church family.

Any questions, call Sue Thomas at 330-628-1736.



## Treasurer's Report

Balance in the General Fund as of January 1, 2018		\$65,367.96
January Offerings	20,774.22	
January Disbursements	15,284.64	\$5,489.58
February Offerings	11,670.19	
February Disbursements	12,080.32	(-410.13)
March Offerings	15,685.41	
March Disbursements	12,985.31	2,700.10
April Offerings	16,576.50	
March Disbursements	18,523.30	(-1,946.80)
May Offerings	23,832.00	
May Disbursements	48,487.63	(-24,655.63)
June Offerings	13,685.45	
June Disbursements	17,772.31	(-4,086.86)
July Offerings	15,352.00	
July Disbursements	15,854.31	(-502.31)
August Offerings	12,659.88	
August Disbursements	25,583.30	(-12,923.42)
September Offerings	19,744.41	
September Disbursements	13,386.73	6,357.68
October Offerings	11,749.00	
October Disbursements	33,213.35	(-21,464.35)
Ending Balance on October 31, 2018		<b>\$13,925.82</b>

Our October offerings of \$11,749.00 were below normal, and the October disbursements of \$33,213.35 were way above normal due to the church bell tower repair and quarterly insurance.

*— Barry Rudy, Treasurer*

### Church & Parsonage Repair Project

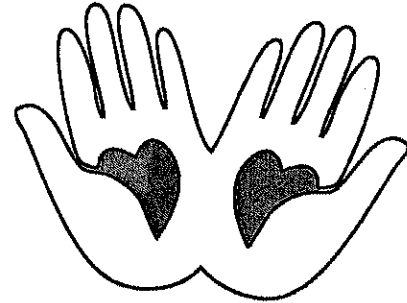
To-date expenditures: \$67,375.00

To-date offering receipts: \$20,283.00

## InReach Helping Hands

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)  
 Judy Daniels: (330) 604-7337  
 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)  
 Harry Smith: (330) 794-9032  
 Forest Thorn: (330) 628-1894  
 JoAnn Wolonsky: (330) 628-1540 (Cell: 330-400-1438)



## December Birthdays

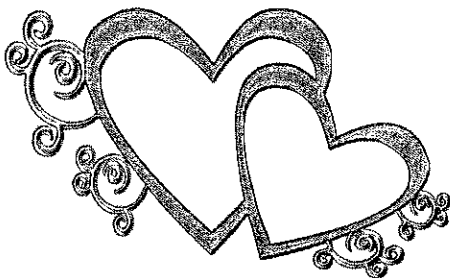
December 1 Doug Benjamin  
 December 2 Phyllis Watson  
 December 3 Rylee Rinehart  
 December 5 Val Short  
 Steve Bitting  
 December 6 Nicole Thomas  
 December 7 Tamara Calderwood  
 December 8 Sue Vargo  
 December 11 Carrie Stefan  
 December 14 Lynne Shaffer  
 December 16 Lisa Seibel  
 Emily Hill  
 December 20 JoAnn Wolonsky  
 December 22 Ashley Wright  
 Amorett Kluth



December 23 Gladys Francis  
 December 24 Cheryl Spade  
 Alexis Crockett  
 December 29 Tanner Hill  
 Elijah Rinehart

## December Anniversaries

December 17 Caleb & Marie Lipocky  
 December 29 Pastor Eric & Carmen Kluth



## Mogadore United Methodist Church Lay Leader's Report on Outreach Evangelism for 2018

The people of the Mogadore United Methodist Church try to live as disciples called to action, trusting that God will grow the faith where we plant the seeds. We had 29 "hands-on" activities this year. Approximately 20 % of the active membership participated in at least 3 of those events (a 3% increase over 2017). A vast majority of the congregation participated in at least one "hands on" promotion and virtually everyone provided prayer and financial support for our efforts.

Coupling our UMW giving with other outreach giving, our donations amount to approximately \$9,000 to local charities and schools, in addition to paying 100% of our benevolence apportionments.

Our projects included adopting 8 families at Christmas (purchasing approximately 80 gifts); providing food items for *Open M*, *Good Neighbors*, and *Haven of Rest*; packing backpacks for *Children's Services*, providing lunch for *Habitat for Humanity* workers, community leaf-raking, monthly food-bank volunteering, fund-raising walks, trunk-or-treat, hosting the community *Christmas in the Village* live nativity, and providing free activities at our community festival, as well as hosting a community outdoor worship service.

As always, our doors are open to community groups. We sponsor a scout troop, as well as hosting Lions Club meetings and a quilter's guild. We have sponsored several family events in conjunction with the scouts.

We have continued to expand our partnership with Mogadore Village Schools, maintaining a volunteer team willing to participate in ongoing school projects. A highlight of the year was writing notes of encouragement to every teacher and staff member in the district, plus providing school supplies and financial support for needy elementary students. We have supported Baccalaureate, prayer for the schools, a football team dinner, and provide free parking for home football games.

Additionally, we have several people who regularly attend community leaders' luncheons that enable a variety of organizations to keep abreast of current activities and concerns within the village. We believe our presence brings a Christian perspective into a network of primarily secular organizations and provides us an opportunity to consider new ministries based upon the changing dynamic of the community.

Our plans for the future include increased emphasis on impacting the young people in the community by expanding our work with the school system. We plan to meet with the superintendent, elementary school principal, and guidance counselor to formulate plans and programs custom-tailored to their needs. We hope to focus on disadvantaged and marginalized students in ways that improve their prospects for a more stable and satisfying life. Easing their burdens and providing positive role-modeling to developing children offer the potential for significant future impact on our community.

Numerous individuals within the congregation also provide personal acts of outreach beyond direct church activities. Visitation, volunteerism, and compassionate hearts abound in our church.

Praise be to God for the loving acts and prayerful support offered by this congregation.

Russ Hull



## Youth Group News

Our Youth Christmas Service will be on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Worship starts at 10:30 am. Just a reminder, we will have Youth Group on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> to practice for the Service, so if you have parts assigned to you, it is important that you make practice!

The Youth always put on a great service, so come on out and worship with us. It's always a treat during the Christmas season!

Our Youth will be hosting a fundraiser this Advent: we are going to have a Celebration of Life Tree, and on this tree, there will be ribbons that can be purchased at \$1 a strand. The ribbons are in memory of loved ones you want to honor this holiday season, which will be used to decorate the Celebration of Life Tree! The tree will be in the church yard for all the community to enjoy. More details are coming, so keep an ear out for the announcements! We hope you can support us in this exciting and thoughtful gesture to celebrate the ones we love this holiday season!

We have more events coming up in the weeks and months ahead, so be on the lookout for the updates! I'm excited about the plans we have, and I can't wait to share them with you soon!

We hope that this holiday season is a blessing to you all! Marie and I wish you a very Merry Christmas! See you in church!

Blessings,

Caleb Lipocky, Youth Leader



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9 a.m. Habitat for Humanity Lunch Prep
2 First Sunday of Advent Communion InReach Mini-workshop after Service 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	3 7 p.m. Cub Scouts Pastor Eric at Crucible	4 7 p.m. Trustees	5 10:30 a.m. Bible Study Noon Miriam Circle 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	6 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	7 5:30 p.m. UMW Progressive Dinner Fellowship Hall	8 Christmas in the Village Live Nativity
9 Fellowship Hall in use in the after- noon 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	10 6 p.m. Naomi Circle 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	11	12 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Rebecca Circle 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	13 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	14 11 a.m. Annabel Brubaker Memorial Service	15 Set-up for Brunch with Santa
16 Youth-led Service Brunch with Santa following worship	17 7 p.m. Cub Scouts Newsletter Deadline	18	19 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Portage Patchers 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	20 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23 Choir Cantata	24 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Secretary — vacation day	27	28	29
30 Loose Coin Offering for Open M						



**Church Staff:**

Pastor: Rev. Eric Kluth  
Church: (330) 628-1232  
Parsonage: (234) 813-9040  
Pastor's Cell: (216) 785-6798

Youth Ministries Leader: Caleb Lipocky  
Email: [mogadoreumcyouth@att.net](mailto:mogadoreumcyouth@att.net)  
Cell: (260) 557-2237

Accompanist: Fran Snyder  
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  
3828 Mogadore Road, Mogadore, OH 44260  
(330) 628-1232 Email: [mogadoreumc@att.net](mailto:mogadoreumc@att.net)  
Website: [www.mogadoreumc.org](http://www.mogadoreumc.org)  
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.