



The Messenger

Mogadore United
Methodist Church

September 2020

Notes from the Pastor

This month there is a lot happening in Mogadore. School is starting, indoor worship is starting on the 13th of the month and our football tailgate gathering will also be on the 25th of the month.

I have to say when we concluded our indoor worship in March, I wanted to believe that we would have gathered inside before September. However, this is a reminder that there are indeed things in our lives that we have no say or control over. We adapt, be flexible, and continue to move forward. I know that this has been a challenge for all of us, to be at home, worshiping online and/or outdoors, not seeing friends, not worshiping in the sanctuary, and the list of loss continues. I think that even in the excitement of getting back together in the sanctuary, there is still loss and grief as worship will not be the same as it was before March.

For some this loss will continue as I know not everyone will be back to the sanctuary for worship as many people will stay at home to worship. This takes a toll on our lives, a toll that is physical, spiritual and mental. I think back to March when people would use the words “new normal” and now I think if this is the new normal, I don’t want anything to do with this. If this new normal is taking a toll on me physically, spiritually and mentality, then I am done. I believe that what really happened was that people began to realize that the phrase “new normal” was not real, that really we were not going back to a new normal and that maybe what we thought was normal was not really normal.

This reminds me of a quote by author Sonya Renee Taylor:

“We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was never normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate and lack. We should not long to return, My friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment. One that fits all of humanity and nature.”

I think of this new garment and the words of Romans 13:14 come to mind: **“Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.”** We clothe ourselves in Christ and hear the words “Follow me”. The next words are not ...when things are easy,when things are normal,when everything is in a box with a bow on top, or really any words that you place in there. It is just ‘Follow me’. What a simple, yet scary and freeing statement all at the same time. “Follow me”.

May we follow Christ into a new life, may we follow Christ into a new journey, and may we follow Christ working for a world that is free for all people.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Eric

The church office is now open 9 a.m. to noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays, Pastor Eric will be doing online work for his doctoral dissertation.



Treasurer's Report

Balance in General Fund as of January 1, 2020		\$25,768.41
January Offerings	\$ 16,259.00	
January Disbursements	\$ 15,739.63	519.37
February Offerings	\$ 14,771.34	
February Disbursements	\$ 15,957.14	(-1,185.80)
March Offerings	\$ 16,239.20	
March Disbursements	\$ 13,249.91	2,989.29
April Offerings	\$ 11,969.20	
April Disbursements	\$ 14,470.33	(-2,501.13)
May Offerings	\$ 20,225.00	
May Disbursements	\$ 11,887.05	8,337.95
June Offerings	\$ 17,921.90	
June Disbursements	\$ 12,852.94	5,058.96
July Offerings	\$ 12,568.91	
July Disbursements	\$ 13,326.70	(-757.79)
Ending Balance July 31, 2020		\$38,090.26

If everything goes well, we are looking at resuming indoor services in September. I know a lot of folks are looking forward to that. July's offerings were a little below normal, and with the payment of 3rd quarter insurance, July's disbursements were a little above normal. For those of you unable to attend services, please continue to mail your offerings to the church, or directly to my home address at 13523 Iris Ave. NW., Mogadore, Ohio 44260.

Receipts for the bell tower repair are low, so we ask for you continued financial support to help in repaying the full amount.

Stay safe,

Barry Rudy, Treasurer

Condolences to the Kreiner family on the death of Connie's brother.

Update About Services

Starting **Sunday, September 13, 2020** we will be holding service indoors at the church. We will be requesting reservations as to know who will be attending so we can prepare the seating and space. This will also allow us to know who is coming as we will have two services, one at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. For the first service, you will need to RSVP by Wednesday, September 9; and you will need to contact the church office for reservations by each Wednesday for the following Sunday.

Masks will be required along with social distancing. Congregational singing, passing of the offering, Communion and greetings before and after the service will not take place. More specific details will be released as they are available as we get closer to September 13. If you have any questions you can contact the office at 330-628-1232 or mogadoreumc@att.net.

With the addition to our indoor service, we are looking for volunteers to help with be ushers, cleaning teams during and after service as we prepare and keep the space safe a clean for everyone. If you can volunteer, please contact the office at 330-628-1232 or mogadoreumc@att.net.

During this time of COVID-19, we are aware of your concerns for safety. Please observe the following guidelines:

- We are requesting that if you are feeling sick or running a temperature, you STOP and stay home!
- Upon arriving, your temperature will be taken.
- We are requesting and requiring that everyone wear a mask and observe safe social distancing. Masks are available if you don't have one. Directional tape will be in use on the floor. In the sanctuary, you will be directed to a seat. After the church service, an usher will excuse each row and people will exit the building without stopping to talk until they get into the parking lot and can observe appropriate distancing.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available in common areas. Sanitize hands frequently.
- Books, hymnals and Bible will be temporarily removed. Individuals may bring their own.
- No food or drinks will be made or served at church. Individuals may bring their own.
- The water fountains cannot be used.
- Seat cushions will be temporarily removed. You may bring your own and take it home.
- Collection plates will not be passed. One container will be at the door of the sanctuary for offerings.

COVID-19 Cleaning Check List

After and/or prior to use of commonly used surfaces

A cleaning bucket with supplies will be provided: buckets include paper towels or wipes, spray disinfectant, gloves and trash bags.

Ionizers will be turned on after sanctuary use for 15 minutes. This will sanitize the area. These are portable and can be used in other rooms. You cannot be in the room while they are on.

List of surfaces to remember to clean:

Tables/work stations

Countertops

Chairs/backs

Railings

Door knobs/handles/bars

Pew backs and arm end rests

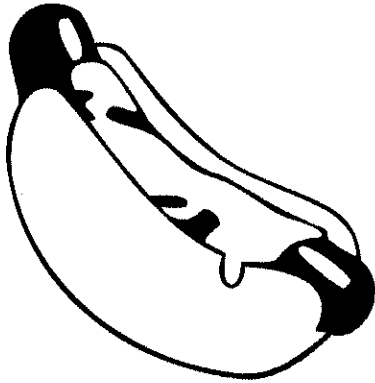
Microphones

Remote controllers, tablets

Bathroom fixtures, toilets

Light switches, heat/ac controller

Elevator buttons



Hot Diggity Dogs Before Cats

Tailgate Event

5 p.m. Friday, September 25
Church Parking Lot

A free event for all youth and adults. The church will be providing hot dogs, bagged chips, cookie and bottled water. Face masks will be required and social distancing must be observed.

If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact the church office.

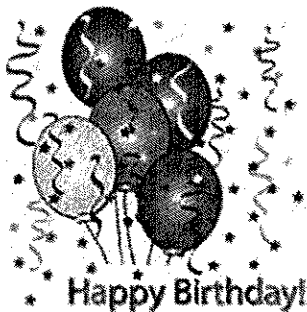
Flu Shot Clinic to be held Sunday, September 20

CVS pharmacists will again be available at the church to administer flu shots from noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 20. This year you can pre-register online for a time. If you need assistance doing that, please contact Joyce at the church office.

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**KEEP
CALM
AND
GET YOUR
FLU SHOT**

September Birthdays

- September 11 Ralph Lowe
- September 14 Joyce Calderwood
- September 17 Forest Thorn
Gene Snyder
- September 20 Patricia Everly
- September 21 Camden Paolucci
- September 24 Sandy Datsko
- September 26 Jody Waldner
- September 27 Carol Jenkins



COVENANT FOR RETURNING TO WORSHIP

- We Will: be patient with each other as we navigate a new reality and model an attitude of grace as Christ's disciples
- We Will: accept each person's decision as to whether they are returning to in-person worship or not, not judging them but loving them
- We Will: not come to church if we have symptoms
- We Will: clean and sanitize after every gathering
- We Will: keep 6 feet distance from those not in our families
- We Will: sanitize our hands when we enter the church building and throughout the time we are here
- We Will: refrain from hugging and shaking hands
- We Will: will wear masks when we are indoors together, showing our love and concern for each other
- We Will: have alternatives to passing the offering plates, Communion and bulletins
- We Will: will continue to offer worship experiences online even when we can gather together so that everyone will feel a part of the Body of Christ
- We Will: let the church office know as soon as possible if we are diagnosed with COVID and noting when we last attended in-person worship
- We Will: follow the instructions of our church leaders, doing so with a joyful attitude
- We Will: pray for strength and encourage our church leaders, staff and fellow congregation members during this time of transition.

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others”

— Philippians 2:3-4 ESV

Prayer Concern Email List

Several years ago an email prayer concern chain was started. Since then, the congregation has welcomed new people and we want to make sure that if you would like to be included to pray for the brothers and sisters in Christ you have that opportunity.

If you would like to be included on the email prayer chain, please contact the church office at mogadoreumc@att.net and you will be added to the list. Thank you!



Prayer Requests

Effective September 1, 2020, SPRC has terminated Caleb Lipocky's Youth Leader position and contract. We appreciate the work and contributions that he has given our congregation during this time. As we transition through this COVID-19 pandemic Pastor Eric will assume the role of youth leader during this time and SPRC will continue to monitor needs and vision of the church in regards to this position. If anyone has any questions or concerns please contact Pastor Eric or Brenda Heminger, chairperson of SPRC.

Nsofwa finished her school teaching at Lake Center Christian School and left back to Zambia at the beginning of July. She had to quarantine on arrival in her county for 14 days, but is well and home with family. Thank you again for your prayers and support during her time here. Please continue to pray for her as she is looking for jobs or getting into schools as there are not any job and school is hard to get into right now. — *Pastor Eric*



Latest Bible Study to Begin September 16

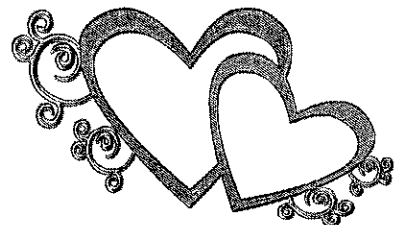
The next Bible study *Where Culture and Faith Intersect* will be held at 10:30 a.m. starting Wednesday, September 16. Books are \$9 each.

The six week study will focus on where Christians can see people's needs in a new way, understand their calling, and learn how their faith can shape culture. The DVD and curriculum will help followers of Christ envision how to be a counter-culture for the common good.

September Anniversaries

September 17 *Keith & Linda Hunsucker*

September 23 *Gene & Fran Snyder*



Bearing Fruit that Lasts: Called, Committed, Connected

When we gather virtually September 26-27 from Church of the Saviour UMC in Cleveland Heights for Annual Conference 2020, we will be guided by the theme *Bearing Fruit that Lasts: Called, Committed, Connected*.

Through powerful worship and working together to conduct the essential business of Annual Conference, we will underscore the importance of being connected to God, to our neighbors, and to our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and bearing fruit that lasts.

All business sessions and worship services of Annual Conference 2020 will be livestreamed **on the East Ohio Conference website**.

Annual Conference 2020 Livestream Schedule

Saturday, September 26

9:00 a.m.

Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion

10:30 a.m.

Business Session

1:00 p.m.

Episcopal Address

1:30 p.m.

Business Session

6:00 p.m.

Service of Commissioning and Ordination

Sunday, September 27

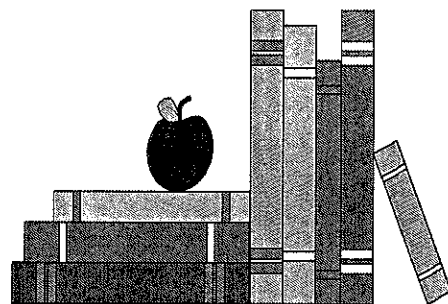
10:00 a.m.

Livestreamed Worship for EOC Churches

Enclosed in the newsletter are back-to-school prayers for students and staff. This year will be a challenging one for all, navigating new routines and procedures.

Please use these prayers throughout the year, lifting up those in education, no matter their age or job title.

If anyone would like to join Pastor Eric for in-person prayer, meet him at 8 a.m. Tuesday, September 8 at the church parking lot.



Back To School



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

UMW News

Hello, September already! I am so grateful to enjoy days sitting outside. Our meetings are on hold for now, and if you are able to go online, the UMW unitedmethodistwomen.org has some fantastic articles to read that will inform and educate in so many areas. One area that I have been interested in is the history section. It provides a timeline of how UMW has grown through the years.

This is an intriguing glimpse of how changes in our organization have grown with social changes in our society. Of course, I also want to know about our history here at Mogadore.

Please share a memory of a meeting or mission to show others what it means to be a part of UMW. You can email or mail me a memory to share in future newsletters. Many thanks to Patricia Everly for providing me with research notes with some of the history here in Mogadore.

Did you know? - Joyce Calderwood was president when the name was changed from Women's Society of Christian Service to United Methodist Women's group in 1972. Joyce started her Presidency in 1968 and throughout the years has had this role many times. Joyce shared with me that tray favors were often made and distributed to patients to help brighten their day.

Here is a list of the following presidents for Mogadore UMW starting from:

1973 – 1974 Juanita Moutz
1975 – 1976 Ruth Metzger
1977 - 1980 Erma Hindel
1981 – 1984 Joyce Calderwood
1985 – 1988 Erma Hindel
1989 - 1993 Joyce Calderwood
1994 - 1997 Erma Hindel
1998 Linda Kot
1999 -2001 Fran McClary
2002 - 2011 Donna Lowe
2012 – 2014 Fran McClary
2015 – present Lynn Straight

I am looking forward to reading and sharing your memories, and leave you with our purpose statement:

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Sincerely,
Sonia Stockett

Prayer for Schools 2020

Father, we come before you with thanks in our hearts that every child in our land has the opportunity of education. We pray that your love and your light may shine through our schools in ways that accomplish your kingdom work.

Prayers for Children in Special Circumstances

For Those with separation anxiety – Lord, give them people and activities to distract their fears and open them to love from new people

For Those attending a new school – Father, help them rapidly become familiar with their surroundings and give them a person to rely on for kindness and advice

For Those being bullied -- Jesus, please spread your compassion upon those being bullied, give them positive feedback about their value and give them people to act as a buffer against bullies

For Those being the bully --Holy Spirit, please act as the voice of conscience to diminish their hurtful actions and provide them with comfort for whatever challenges in their lives cause them to bully others

For Those who don't recognize the importance of education – Lord, help them to realize that the more they know, the greater their skills, the better their quality of life can be. Provide them with role models they can look up to and emulate.

For Those with low self-esteem – Father please help them to recognize that every one of your creations has worth and a purpose. Help them to find their special talents and celebrate the things that make them unique.

For those holding a sense of entitlement – Help them to refrain from lording over their peers or expecting special treatment. Help them to recognize their own limitations, that all of us have both talents and frailties.

For those with special needs – Lord, surround them with people who love, encourage, and inspire them to grow in strength and confidence. Help them to move toward independence and increase their awareness of self-worth.

For those who participate in sports, academic groups, and artistic expression – keep them safe, help them accept the need for fair play, cooperation with their “teammates,” and guide them as they strengthen the unique talents they have been given by you.

For those with broken families, abusive families, chemically dependent families – Father, please uplift the children who struggle to find their place in the world while being beaten down by the circumstances of dysfunctional families. Bring them peace, hope, and people to fill the voids created by problems in their home life.

Prayers for Teachers & Staff

Lord, we ask that you enable them:

to be the eyes and ears of Jesus, being perceptive of their children’s needs

to create a learning environment that challenges, but uplifts their students

to share their love of learning and recognition that different people have different talents and interests, but all have immeasurable value

to keep them patient and positive

to accept your strength that lifts them above the painful personal and professional challenges that come their way

to perform their duties of transportation or meal preparation of record management in such a way as to improve the quality of life for those they serve

to handle in positive and productive ways the intricate details of managing diverse areas of responsibility: funding, schedules, activities, hiring, evaluating, community relations, accreditation, curriculum, and support systems.

Lord, we ask your direction that the entire school system may be a place of joy, happiness, successful endeavors, and much personal growth so that each adult and child is moved closer toward what you intend them to be.

As we close, Lord, we offer this prayer:

A Prayer for Students and Teachers Adapted from Rev. Rosanna Anderson.

We are grateful for this new school year in which all have an opportunity to grow in knowledge, faith, friendship, and love.

We pray for all students in our community, our country, and throughout the world. Thank you for their curiosity, hope, and kindness.

Help our students to listen for your voice, as they explore the world around them.

Thank you for giving their teachers dedication, experience, and insight.

Sustain them all by your Spirit with creativity, patience, peace, and joy.

Continually guide and bless all parents, families, and the whole community throughout this year.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who provoked thought and sought to open minds in a spirit of love and understanding. Amen.

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:30 p.m. Dialogues on Race evening session	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 8 a.m. Back to School Prayer in the church parking lot	9 6:30 p.m. Dialogues on Race evening session	10 6:30 p.m. SPRC	11	12
13 9 a.m. First Service 10:30 a.m. Second Service	14	15	16 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	17	18	19
20 9 a.m. First Service 10:30 a.m. Second Service Noon to 2 p.m. Flu Shot Clinic	21	22	23 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	24	25 5 p.m. Hot Diggety Dogs Before Cats Church Parking Lot	26 EOCUMC Annual Conference Online
27 9 a.m. First Service 10:30 a.m. Second Service	28	29	30 10:30 a.m. Bible Study			



Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Eric Kluth

Church: (330) 628-1232

Parsonage: (234) 813-9040

Pastor's Cell: (216) 785-6798

Accompanist: Fran Snyder

Custodian: David Smith

Secretary: Joyce Selzer

«First_Name» «Last_Name»

«Location»

«Address»

«City» «State» «zip»

Mogadore United Methodist Church
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Website: www.mogadoreumc.org
Find us on FaceBook!
Church Office Hours: 9 a.m. to noon
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays