



# The Messenger

Mogadore United  
Methodist Church

November/December  
2021

## *Notes from the Pastor*

It is good to be back even if I am late with getting the newsletter written for the month of November/December. I guess that is what happens when one is in isolation for the month of October and the next thing — it is November. I am thankful for all your prayers, love and support during this time for our family. Arielle and Amorette recovered well and Carmen keep us all together as the three of us were sick, but thankfully we just had mild symptoms.

Leaving the house once again was an interesting experience. I usually do the grocery shopping in the house, which means that I am at the store at least weekly; but maybe at times even more. The first time back in the store I kept looking around and saying, “What, how much?” “Wait, that was not that much three weeks ago!” I know when this pandemic started it might have been a week or two between shopping trips, as I stocked up on food; and no, I did not hoard the toilet paper, or well I cannot remember if I did that or not. I do remember that prices did not jump so quickly at the beginning of the pandemic. I know part of this is supply and demand of products vs. labor forces as we continue to navigate this pandemic. I also know that when I would be in the store weekly price changes are gradual and less shocking.

I thought how shocking it must be for people who have not been to church in person to head back to worship. We have not raised prices like the grocery store as church is free, but other things have changed: the people or the number of people, activities, programs, staff, music, and being able to worship online to name a few. This is shocking to people, and even maybe shocking to people who come every week, but like the grocery store, we do not notice the gradual changes as much, but they are there. And not just the gradual changes but the shocking ones also, especially as we are less than a year away from General Conference 2022 and the possible split of the UMC. This scares me and most likely scares many of us as to what the future holds as a church and denomination. That will be made clearer as we approach and get through General Conference. Even after General Conference it will take time to work out what the decision is moving forward.

So, you might be asking what can you do in the meantime? I ask that you pray, asking God to reveal where your heart, mind, soul and spirit is involving the matter. I also ask that you ask questions, research all sides, attend gatherings around issues on human sexuality to make an informed decision. As a church there will be opportunities to ask questions and voice concerns after worship services on Sundays starting in 2022. Books, articles and statements will also be available as we go into next year. And last but not least, listen to yourself, to God and especially to others, even if they hold a different view than yours. It is in listening that we can come together with the hope that the church will continue, maybe not looking like what we have seen or can imagine, but a place that spreads the love of Christ for the transformation of the world.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Eric



## Treasurer's Report

Balance in General Fund as of January 1, 2021		\$25,345.00
January Offerings	\$ 16,039.59	
January Disbursements	\$ 11,786.72	4,270.87
February Offerings	\$10,879.00	
February Disbursements	\$15,480.25	(-4,601.25)
March Offerings	\$14,911.45	
March Disbursements	\$13,391.61	1,519.84
April Offerings	\$11,056.45	
April Disbursements	\$12,597.46	(-1,541.01)
May Offerings	\$11,278.00	
May Disbursements	\$11,507.62	(-229.62)
June Offerings	\$8,156.46	
June Disbursements	\$13,140.31	(-4,983.85)
July Offerings	\$16,400.00	
July Disbursements	\$13,037.70	3,362.30
August Offerings	\$15,517.00	
August Disbursements	\$17,199.69	(-1,682.69)
September Offerings	\$12,599.26	
September Disbursements	\$11,849.91	749.35
October Offerings	\$13,247.00	
October Disbursements	\$12,802.82	444.18
<b>Ending Balance on October 31, 2021</b>		<b>\$22,653.12</b>

*(continued on page 3)*

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Both the September offerings of \$12,599.26 and the disbursements of \$11,849.91 were about normal for the month of September. The October offerings of \$13,247.00 were well below normal for a five Sunday month, and the disbursements of \$12,802.82 were about normal. For those not attending our in-house services, you can continue to mail your offerings to the church, or to my home address of 13523 Iris Ave. N.W., Mogadore, Ohio 44260.

— Barry Rudy, Treasurer

Mogadore United Methodist Church,

Thank you for allowing the Mogadore Alumni Foundation to use your parking lot for the vendors of our Holiday Bazaar. Having this extra parking was a blessing. It freed up the school's parking lot for the bazaar and patrons. The vendors liked that we had special parking for them, along with a school shuttle bus. We are appreciate your willingness to help us.

Wildcat Pride

Mogadore Schools Alumni Foundation

Linda Hamilton

Vice President

## Advent Bible Study to begin December 1

The four week Advent study *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas* will begin on Wednesday, December 1. **Books are available in the church office at no cost thanks to a generous donor.**



In *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*, a group of diverse Wesleyan scholars will take you on an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley's means of grace. In four sessions of study, prayer, and conversation, readers will look at preparing the way for God, the discipline of prayer, the substance of good works, and the recognition of God's presence with us in communities that are called to serve the world.

## Cemetery Plot Available

In 2008, Mogadore UMC was deeded a plot in the Greenwood Cemetery in town. It is in Section 2; Lot No. 181. If you would like more information, please contact the church office at 330-628-1232 or [mogadoreumc@att.net](mailto:mogadoreumc@att.net).

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1 Doug Benjamin  
 December 2 Phyllis Watson  
 December 3 Rylee Rinehart  
 December 5 Val Short  
 December 6 Nicole Thomas  
 December 7 Tamara Calderwood  
 December 8 Sue Vargo  
 December 14 Lynne Shaffer  
 December 16 Lisa Seibel  
                   Emily Hill  
 December 20 JoAnn Wolonsky  
 December 22 Amorette Kluth

December 24 Alexis Crockett  
 December 29 Tanner Hill  
                   Elijah Rinehart



### United Methodist Student Day Special Offering

Enclosed in this newsletter is a flyer with a QR Code to scan with a way to donate online. Donations may also be mailed or given with your regular offering on Sunday morning; please mark your donations as such.

**HOW DO YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY?** United Methodists have been investing in our students for more than 100 years. United Methodist Student Day invites the church to support United Methodist students in achieving their educational goals. The funds received award United Methodist scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. Your gifts help young people achieve their educational calling with more financial freedom

Volunteers are needed to help with MUMC's part in Christmas in the Village on Saturday, December 11. This year MUMC will be hosting a warming station near the Municipal Building and having coffee for the adults and treat bags for the kids.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Set up that day of the event at 1:30 p.m.
- Working a hour shift during the day of the event .
- Tear down at 5:30 p.m. the day of the event

If you can help, please contact the church office ASAP at 330-628-1232 or [mogadoreumc@att.net](mailto:mogadoreumc@att.net)



## UMW News

Greetings,

October was a busy fun month for our United Methodist Women! The Rebecca Circle had their meeting at our fellowship hall with a beautiful fall theme hosted by Vicki Crawford. The cake was called "Best Cake Ever" and the reports are it really was! Thank you, Vicki, for making the meeting so special. The Naomi Circle also had their meeting at our fellowship hall with a special activity – making Christmas cards with the guidance and supplies from Cindy Shaffer. Thank you, Cindy, for

providing an uplifting activity for our circle to share!

Our UMW held their annual movie night with a wonderful movie about Rabbits! We learned so much about how amazing these animals truly are! Thank you to Carol Groh and Kelly Rick for hosting; we were treated to great movie night snacks of hot dogs, popcorn and candy. These meetings are not only important for fellowship; we also are doing all we can to provide our community and church with our Christian spirit in spreading the word of Jesus!

Coming in November our Rebecca circle will be meeting at Lynn Straight's home November 10 at 6:30 p.m. The Naomi Circle will be determined; please check with your circle sisters. The November UMW meeting will be moved to November 16 due to Thanksgiving week. Please plan on attending; we will be combining the World Thank Offering and Call to Prayer and Self-Denial observances. Both are opportunities for us to respond to God's abundant Grace. We have the power to make a difference! We welcome you to come pray, learn and offer your gifts that will make a real change in the lives of women, children and youth around the world. If you are unable to attend, gifts may be given to our treasurer, Michele Acord, or sent to the office.

Sincerely, Sonia Stockett



Thanks to everyone who helped to make my 80th birthday something to remember. It was especially nice to see those who drove through and who also sent cards.

"Engineer" Harry Smith

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

**\*Holiday Food Drive for Open M:** A huge thank-you to everyone who contributed to our successful collection of tea and beans. We surpassed the goal and were able to contribute an additional 50 cans of beans and 50 packs of tea, which worked out perfectly because they received an extra 50 requests for food baskets. Bless you for sharing.

### **Looking Ahead**

#### **\*Adopt-a-family for Christmas:**

Each year we provide Christmas gifts and groceries for 4 or 5 needy families affiliated with Moga-dore Schools. Last year, because of the pandemic, we made cash donations to the school and the staff took care of purchase, wrapping, and distribution of gifts. We are planning the same thing for this year.

If you want to help in this way, you can send a monetary donation to church. Monetary donations should be in addition to your usual pledge and have the memo line specify **Adopt-a-family** to ensure its proper distribution.

If you choose this option, you may **send your donations as soon as you are ready**. (The earlier the better so that shoppers have ample opportunity to make selections before stock runs out.)

If you prefer to personally shop for gifts, please notify Russ by November 28 so that he can find out from the school what gifts are needed.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call Russ at 330-628-1552.

**\*The Mitten Tree** will be in the church from November 28 until January 10 to collect hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks for distribution to needy children in the schools.

**\*Single-use grocery bags get a second life if you donate them to OPEN M.** Thousands of bags are "recycled" through a second use **every month** by the OPEN M food pantry. Fresh produce and small sized non-perishables are placed into bags for safer and easier distribution to clients. We have a collection box in the church hallway. Please bring or send them to church at your convenience.

**Special thanks** to the 11 hikers and donors who raised \$315 for the CROP walk against hunger.

*Thanks to all of you for your prayerful support of these important ministries.*

## *December Anniversary*



*December 29*

*Pastor Eric & Carmen Kluth*

## **Executive Committee Meeting**

### **November 15, 2021 7 p.m.**

**Attendance:** Fred Slocum, chairman; JoAnn Wolonsky, Russ Hull, Judy Daniels, Pastor Eric Kluth, Barry Rudy, Michele Acord, Kelly Rick, Kathy Lang, Brenda Heminger

**Prayer:** Prayers offered by Pastor Eric.

**Minutes/Calendar:** Minutes were reviewed and approved; Calendar was approved and corrections were made.

#### **Goals:**

- Barry presented the budget for 2022; discussion was held and it was approved.
- Discussion was held about online giving. No monthly fees; have to sign contract; no penalty if not used; some transaction fees for credit card. A motion was made to temporarily try for 3 months; motion approved.
- Christmas in the Village: Russ discussed the preparations and free giveaways. A tent will be set over the sidewalk by the gazebo with heaters
- Suggestion that next year for Christmas in the Village plan a pancake breakfast.
- General Conference 2022 will be in September. Information was passed out from the Council of Bishops; discussed was held by the group and explanation from the pastor.
- Ideas for Memorial funds: Please submit ideas to the Memorial Committee and Sharon Fitting. Among items discussed were electronic bells, flood lights, electronic sign.

#### **Pastor's Report:**

- Advent starts November 28. The Hanging of the Greens will be November 21 following worship.
- Pledge cards will be distributed next month.
- Poinsettias will be purchased; \$200 was authorized.
- Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m.
- Media Grant sent off the conference for consideration.
- Football team breakfast was successful; discussion was held about having a community breakfast next year.

#### **REPORTS**

##### **Trustees:**

- Completed roof and east façade repairs -- \$5,000 discount.
- Parsonage inspection complete; need to replace front storm doors.
- Electricians looking at outside lights; replacing them with LEDs.

**SPRC:**

- Remember Love Offering envelopes.
- Discussed concerns Joyce has raised.

**Finance:**

- Paid roof repair from Endowment Fund.
- October giving was lower but able to meet expenses
- Suggestion about when to distribute Adopt-a-Family contributions; Russ discussed. .

No meeting in December. Next meeting is January 4, 2022 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Acord



## Executive Committee Minutes

October 11, 2021; 7:00 PM

**Attendees:** Pastor Eric, Michele Acord, Barry Rudy, Kathy Lang, Russ Hull, Fred Slocum, Kelly Rick, Chuck Lang.

Fred called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and Pastor Eric opened with a prayer.

Minutes of the September 20, 2021 meeting were reviewed; Russ made a motion to approve the minutes; Barry seconded; approved.

Nominating Committee has met. Confirmed Sharon Fitting as chairperson. All other vacancies agreed to extended for another term.

Charge conference with our District Superintendent was last week. Fred brought up grants with her and she confirmed that there is money available; paperwork must be submitted should we want to apply for a grant to update our technology/sound system.

### **Pastor's Report:**

- **Technology** - Woodsy's quote was \$12,236 for the sanctuary and approximately 2K more for screens and audio to the kitchen and fellowship hall. Russ made a motion to request via a grant in the amount of \$14,000; Barry seconded; approved.
- **Christmas in the Village** – After discussion on a manger scene vs. something different, Russ made a motion to have a warming station (near the gazebo if possible), with handouts such as coloring books for the children. Kelly seconded; approved.
- **On-Line Giving** – Barry made a motion to have a presentation from EasyTithe to answer some questions. Chuck seconded; approved. Kathy will arrange.
- **AA** – they are now meeting weekly in Fellowship Hall on Thursday mornings.

### **Trustees – Michele Acord**

- **North side Roof status** – Once the roof was tore off, damage was worse than anticipated. Masonry work was needed; no new estimate yet. Work should be completed by the end of this week.
- Also front steps and belltower cap steps need repair. Sheppard said it could run 10-25K but that is not an estimate to be held to. Discussion on possibility of a ramp. Someone needs to get an estimate on the steps.
- State inspections were done for the furnace and elevator; all passed.
- Engineer's report showed the church by the driveway is structurally okay but cracks need to be repaired. The front stairs are not in danger of collapsing, but need repair.

### **SPRC – No report**

### **Treasurer's Report – Barry Rudy**

We came out ahead for September. Since we will owe more than what was already withdrawn for the roof repair, Barry made a motion to draw from the Endowment Fund for any overage. Michele seconded; approved.

### **Help Needed for Projects**

**Christmas** – Russ reported he will need information from the school on families needing help and also from Open M.

Next meeting Monday, November 15, 2021 at 7 PM.

Chuck made a motion to adjourn; Barry seconded; adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Lang

# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY



## TOGETHER OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways

**YOUR DONATION CHANGES  
THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME**

**GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:**

Make checks payable to your local church  
or donate online via credit/debit card at  
[ResourceUMC.org/SSGive](https://ResourceUMC.org/SSGive)



**TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN  
QR CODE WITH YOUR  
SMARTPHONE CAMERA**



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts	2	3	4
5 Communion Second Sunday of Advent	6	7	8 10 a.m. Bible Study	9	10 UWV Christmas at the Lodge	11 Christmas in the Village
12 Third Sunday of Advent	13	14	15 10 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Portage Patchers 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts	16	17 7:30 a.m. Open M Mountain of Food	18
19 Fourth Sunday of Advent	20	21	22 10 a.m. Bible Study	23	24 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day
26 Loose Coin Offering for Open M	27	28	29	30	31 Girl Scouts New Year's Eve Overnighter	



**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](http://www.mogadoreumc.org)

Find us on FaceBook!

Church Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays