



# The Messenger

Mogadore United  
Methodist Church

June 2022

## *Notes from the Pastor*

With every June newsletter as a Methodist pastor comes an end of an appointment year. It is kind of like a season finale of your favorite show. It is the end of the season, but a new season of the show will continue. That happens as we as pastors continue in our appointments into another season at the same church.



Then there are times when it is the series finale, the season is ending and so is the series. In many ways that is where I am and also as a family we are. Our series has wrapped up in Mogadore. What a series it was! Maybe even thinking it would be a nominated series, but what category — drama, comedy, action, adventure, documentary, (I stop short of saying reality TV, but even that might be closer to all of them!) and the list goes on and on. I would have to say it has been all of that and more. There is not one category that could do justice to describing our time here in Mogadore. I think of the grace, support, kindness and love you showed to our family is amazing. I want to say a big Thank You to everyone that have poured out into our lives.

Mogadore was the first church in which I had a staff, and even though it has changed over the four years since being here, those staff members hold a place in our hearts. From the start of showing up and saying I have a staff in which I probably wore the “deer in the headlights” look very well, to going through staff changes with Caleb and Clay, to change in roles for Joyce, David and Fran during the pandemic, it has been quite the journey. A journey that changed course at times as the pandemic caused us to shift directions with youth and choir. It also made me realize what blessings they were in my ministry, the ministry of the church and for people. Joyce, I could not be able to do what I do if it were not for you and how you keep me in line and are the front person for the church. We all know who runs things here. You are a blessing! David, the blessing from the way you were always going the extra mile and your attitude that was always uplifting. Fran, you were a joy to work with and we all know what a blessing you and your music are to the church. Again, a big thank you as we get ready to impart on a new journey for us and also for you as Pastor Pam prepares to come to Mogadore. It is a time of transition and a favorite quote of mine is from William Bridges in which he says, “All transitions are composed of a ending, a neutral zone and a new beginning.” I think this is the case with us just as it was the case with the disciples and their life with Jesus, as there was his death then a time of wondering what they were going to do, the neutral zone, before He was resurrected and came back to breathe the power of the Holy Spirit on them, sending them to share the love of Christ and the good news of the gospel.

In our own lives we have this, with our time ending and there will be a neutral zone as the transition continues into the new beginnings. It might take time and my hope is that there will be an abundance of grace, mercy and love shown to all. There might be days where it might seem as if nothing is happening or if there is not enough time or that the loss or grief is too much, but know that is part of the neutral zone, the time that God is still with you and us as new beginnings are to come. Yes, they are new beginnings in many ways, but new beginnings that are built on top of the good work that Jesus has already started in you and will be complete in Him, now and always. So as we go, may you know that you are cared for, may you know that you are loved and may you know that you are a child of God, now and forever! And, Go Browns, Cavs, and Guardians!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Eric

## Treasurer's Report

Balance in General Fund as of January 1, 2022		\$15,608.98
January Offerings	\$ 13,720.52	
January Disbursements	\$ 16,570.44	(-2849.92)
February Offerings	\$ 8,354.85	
February Disbursements	\$ 15,841.57	(-7,486.72)
March Offerings	\$ 13,341.16	
March Disbursements	\$12,007.80	1,333.36
April Offerings	\$11,521.04	
April Disbursements	\$13,637.09	(-2,116.05)
<b>Ending Balance on April 30, 2022</b>		<b>\$4,489.65</b>

The April offerings of \$11,521.04 were disappointing as it is now the third month this year that we ended with a negative amount in the General Fund. The April disbursements of \$13,637.09 were a little above average as we did have a couple of items out of the norm, including an April snowplowing & salting.

If you are interested in online giving, please contact either Kathy Lang or Gabby Heminger and they can get you set up. You can also 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

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Annual Conference will be Thursday, June 9 through Saturday, June 11 at the John S. Knight Center in downtown Akron. This year's theme *Let Us Live Love* is designed to continue the message that we bear lasting fruit by carrying Christ in us and living His love in the world. \
- A farewell luncheon for Pastor Eric and his family will be held following the service on Sunday, June 12. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary for food for the event.
- A reception welcoming Rev. Pam Buzalka will be held following the service on Sunday, July 3.



***Congratulations to the following graduates from our church family who were honored on Sunday, May 22:***

**Brenda Heminger**

Stark State College, associate's degree in Business of Applied Science

**Tanner Hill**

Mogadore High School and Maplewood Area Joint Vocational School

**Alexandria Peak**

Mogadore High School

**Joshua Soles**

Kent State Police Academy

**Hailey Straight**

Kent State University, bachelor of science in Fashion



**June Birthdays**



June 5 Meredith Francek  
June 6 Emma Peak  
June 7 Noah Lipocky  
June 13 Joyce Hull  
June 16 Don Roepke  
June 18 Meredith Swindell  
June 20 George Thomas  
June 26 Sharon Fitting  
June 28 Joyce Whitmer

***June Anniversaries***

*June 10 Chuck & Kathy Lang*

*June 21 Don & Nancy Roepke*





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

### **\*Return of Ellet Good Neighbors.**

After being closed for almost 2 years, Good Neighbors is re-opening BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. They are in need of gently used clothing. Two school food drives provided enough non-perishables to last through much of the summer. You may begin to bring clothing to the church lobby as you have done in the past. Arrangements will be made for us to deliver them. Should you know someone who needs assistance, they can call 330-784-7088 to make an appointment.

### **Looking Ahead**

**\*UMCOR will be collecting cleaning items during annual conference.** Following numerous tornadoes, floods, and fires they are in desperate need of supplies to help those fortunate enough to have the opportunity to clean-up the remains of their homes. **They are requesting these most needed items:**

- ☐ liquid laundry soap, no larger than 150 oz.
- ☐ dish soap, no larger than 64 oz.
- ☐ liquid household cleaner, no larger than 80 oz.
- ☐ five-gallon buckets with lids

We will have a donation location in the corner of the overflow room. You may begin to bring these items at any time, but **ALL DONATIONS MUST BE HERE BY JUNE 7** in order to allow time for us to transfer them to the Knight Center.

**\*Mountain of Food still provides monthly distribution on the third Friday of each month.** Anyone wishing to volunteer can meet to carpool at 7:30 A.M. on June 17, July 15, August 19 to head to OPEN M. We usually return about 11:30 a.m. Many hands make light work. An average of 250 families are assisted monthly. Being part of this meaningful program creates lasting bonds of camaraderie in addition to feeding Jesus's sheep & lambs.

**\*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 bags to church at your convenience.

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



**A volunteer and/or volunteers is needed to change the outdoor sign. Please contact the church office if you can help.**



## ***A Prayer for the World and Its People***

O God, you are the hope of all the ends of the earth, the God of the spirits of all flesh.

Hear our humble intercession for all races and families on earth, that you will turn all hearts to yourself.

Remove from our minds hatred, prejudice, and contempt for those who are not of our own race or color, class or creed, that, departing from everything that estranges and divides, we may be brought into unity of spirit, in the bond of peace. Amen.

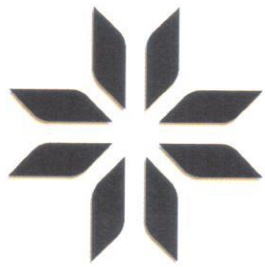
## **A Christian Memorial Day Prayer**

Gracious God,

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace. In union with people of goodwill of every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus, seek an end to violence and conflict around the globe. We ask this through your name.

- *Author Unknown*

A special offering will be taken on Sunday, June 12 for Peace with Justice Ministries. More information is in this newsletter. Envelopes will be available in the sanctuary or you can give online at [UMC.org/SSGive](http://UMC.org/SSGive).



# United Women in Faith

Greetings,

We were thrilled to have the Rev. Karol Lewis and Deaconess Valerie Riedthaler provide the sermon for our United Women in Faith Sunday on May 15th. A wonderful message on how our ordinary gifts really make extraordinary blessings! Thank you very much for your presence and heartfelt message to our congregation.

The Naomi circle met at Carol Groh's home in May and we had a very insightful discussion regarding the bent woman found in the book of Luke 13:10-17. The next Naomi circle will be meeting June 20th at Judy Daniels home.

The Rebecca circle met at Lynn Straight's home in May and have been working on a program led by Barb Skye to improve body, mind and spirit. The next Rebecca circle meeting will be a road trip to see the movie Downton Abbey in June, please contact your circle sisters for more information.

No June general meeting.

Please reach out to me with any information you would like to share via our newsletter.

Sincerely, Sonia Stockett

# June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Communion Girl Scouts will provide Hospitality following worship	6	7	8 Clergy Session of Annual Conference 6:30 p.m. Rebecca Circle	9	10  June 9-11 Annual Conference at John S. Knight Center	11
12 Peace with Justice Special Offering Luncheon for the Kluth Family	13	14	15	16	17 7:30 a.m. Meet at the church to carpool to Open M's Mountain of Food	18 Fellowship Hall in Use
19 Pastor Eric's last Sunday to preach	20	21	22	23	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	25
26	27	28	29	30		