



# The Messenger

Mogadore United  
Methodist Church

September 2022

## *Notes from the Pastor*

### BACK TO SOUL SCHOOL

As we look toward to month of September, many of us think of the return to school — perhaps we are present, retired or former teachers, bus drivers, food service or custodial staff. Perhaps we are parents or grandparents praying for a good and safe school year for our young ones. Those who work in retail may be ready to take a breathe after the mad seasonal influx of anxious shoppers looking for the right school supplies. Maybe we are ready for crisp air, apple cider, pumpkin spice everything and the fall sports. (Need I write football and Go Cats !?)



As a faith community, we are excited for our church Fall Celebration — worship and a picnic at Lion's Park on September 11, and moving ahead we are blessed with opportunities for learning on Sunday and Wednesday mornings and the spiritual growth that comes with service at Open M, in our community, and at our church. Our soul curriculum is pretty simple but infinite: we are called to see like Christ and be like Christ.

When I ponder the start of the soul school year, I find myself reflecting on the difference between "membership" and discipleship. We often use the term "membership" in defining our relationship to our faith community. For example, pastors need to keep track of membership numbers in their yearly Charge Conference paperwork. There is nothing wrong with the notion of church membership, but I am not sure it truly captures the work of our "soul school." When I am a member of a group, it is a transactional relationship: I pay this or that, or I do this or that and I receive benefits and privileges. The transactions may be clearly spelled out in a handbook or contract. I may have the right to vote on matters; I may have a sense of identity and purpose: I am a member of the Lion's Club, Rotary, or Kiwanis. That's all good.

But Jesus called us to discipleship. Jesus said follow ME. Unlike membership, discipleship is not about transactions or exchanges, payments and privileges and much as it is about right relationships. Disciples are called to a new relationship of love with all people in Christ. In Christ all people are in the family. When I followed in my dad's footsteps and joined Kiwanis, I clearly separated myself from Lions and Rotarians. As a disciple, I am called to unity. When I am a member of a group I expect to get what I want — the use of a gym, golf course, or streaming service. As a disciple, I seek to understand what God wants, and I live into the notion that it is in giving that we receive.

Much has changed in schools over the years, but learners still attend to reading, and writing, and 'rithmetic. Much has changed in our faith communities, yet disciples still attend soul school to live more fully into the five promises of Baptism: presence in the faith community as possible, shared and private prayer, witness to Christ in all things, service to others, and giving of our time, talent, and treasure as best we can. Through honest and compassionate reflection we can see where we need to do more soul school "homework." God is waiting to give us the grace we need to complete our assignments with joy.

*(continued from page 1)*

To all of the members of this church — I rejoice in your commitment.

To those who are not yet members — I would love to talk with you about this important step in the life of faith.

For all of us — Let us be mindful of our invitation from Jesus to follow Him as disciples!

With Hope and Love,  
Rev. Pam

- **Pastor's Office Hours**

Rev. Pam will be in the office Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please note that on Wednesday there will be Bible Study. The pastor is also available at other times to meet at the church or your home; just contact her at 216) 704-0307 to set up a time and place.

- **Let's Get Acquainted:** Are you in a community group or a service group like the Lions, a veteran's group, team or school-based group or other local group? Rev. Pam would love to learn about your group and how to become acquainted with them. Connections build our community, our ministry and bring unexpected blessings. Contact Rev. Pam.

- **An Opportunity to Serve:** At Charge Conference time we discern where God is calling us in our discipleship. If you would like to serve on a Committee/Ministry Team or feel led to serve in another way, please contact Rev. Pam who can share your name with the leadership and Nominating Committee. If you have questions about a ministry, you are encouraged to speak with Rev. Pam or one of our leaders. Church secretary Joyce Selzer would be happy to direct you to the leader of the ministry that calls to your heart. We need you!!!

- **Jesus said, "Let the children come unto Me."** We want to share Jesus with the children of our church family, so we are working to begin Children's Church. If you are willing to teach or be a substitute, please contact Rev. Pam. Lesson materials can be provided.

- **Mark Your Calendars:** The church picnic will be held Sunday, September 11. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary. The main dish will be provided; bring a side dish and your table service. **Please indicate how many people in your family will be attending.**

- More volunteers are needed to help with Facebook Live streaming and the presentation on the monitors on Sunday mornings at least once a month. Please let Brenda or Gabby Heminger know ASAP so you can be trained on the new software.

## 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	(-2,849.92)
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)
May Offerings	\$9,423.21	
May Disbursements	\$13,743.96	(-4,320.75)
*June Offerings	\$40,102.07	
June Disbursements	\$16,321.20	\$23,780.87
July Offerings	\$13,444.13	
July Disbursements	\$13,953.10	(-508.97)

\*The June offerings include \$20,000 transferred from the investment account.

**Ending Balance on July 31, 2022** **\$23,440.80**

The July offerings were below normal for a five Sunday month, and the July disbursements of \$13,953.10 were near normal. With utility rates increasing, we will continue to see monthly disbursements increasing.

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.

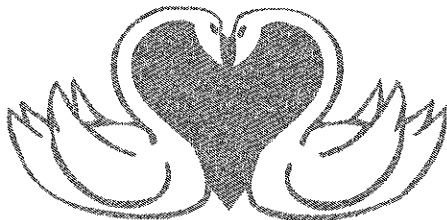
— *Barry Rudy, Treasurer*

## September Birthdays

September 11    Ralph Lowe  
 September 14    Joyce Calderwood  
 September 16    Bo Suihkonen  
 September 17    Forest Thorn  
 September 18    Thelma Chapman  
 September 22    Christina Lange  
 September 23    Carmelo Hamilton  
 September 27    Adreane Crockett  
                       Barbara Schultz  
                       Carol Jenkins  
 September 29    Joe Horan



## September Anniversary



*Happy Anniversary*

*September 17*

*Keith and Linda Hunsucker*

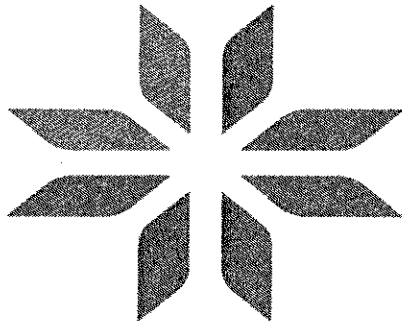
### **2023 Offering Envelopes**

It's time for me to order 2023 Offering envelopes and changing times have made it necessary to reduce the number needed. This is partially due to the success of online giving along with other factors that all churches have experienced over the last two years.

I have carefully tracked those who use the envelopes consistently and will automatically assign 2023 envelopes to that list. I also know who gives via our online giving app, EasyTithe, so I will not assign those givers envelopes.

If you want to be sure I know your preference, feel free to call or text me at 330-715-8789 or email me at [KathyLang60@gmail.com](mailto:KathyLang60@gmail.com). If you want to learn more about online giving, just call or reach out to me and I will be glad to help!

Warmest regards,  
 Kathy Lang, Financial Secretary



# United Women in Faith

Greetings,

With fall almost here I hope you were able to find some joy this past summer. Admiring the wonderful landscaping at our church reminds me to take time to enjoy moments that fill my heart. Moments that seem to happen without notice and are easy to miss. My hope is that you embrace your moments and see God's gift in the joy it can bring.

Our Naomi group met at Sharon Fitting's home for annual pool party. The fellowship, food and dip in the pool was a joyful time! The annual picnic for UWF was held at Wingfoot Lake State Park. Lynn Straight now holds the record for coming in last at bingo but I'm sure she is willing to let someone else get the chance. A truly wonderful time was had by all!

Our UWF unit meeting will be on Tuesday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m. with Joyce Hull and Fran McClary as hostesses; the program will be presented by the Rebecca Circle.

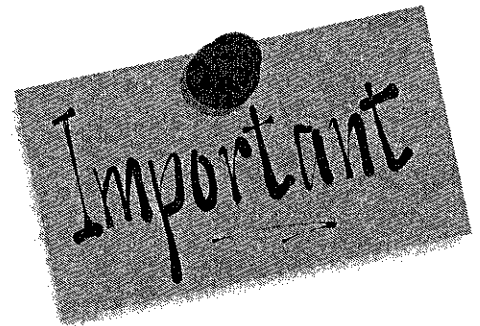
Rebecca Circle will meet Wednesday, September 14 at 6 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall. Claudia Peters and Kathy Lang will serve as hostesses.

Whether it's a phone call with a loved one, admiring a wishing well, or watching our Wildcats — these are the moments when joy shows up and it's up to us to embrace it. May joyful moments find you all!

Sincerely,  
Sonia Stockett

Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee Consultations will take place at the church on Tuesday, September 20, beginning at 5 p.m.

MUMC will be hosting the consultations of four other churches, and the consultation with Mogadore's SPRC will begin at 8 p.m.



## *MUMC in Mission: Sharing Christ's love Making a difference!*

### ***Making a difference!***

\* Thanks to those who gave of their time and energy to provide community members a special treat at the back-to-school kickoff at Mogadore Stadium. We hosted a "photo-booth," and distributed candy and prayer cards to those who stopped by during the event.

\*Thanks to all who provided school supplies for Somers elementary students in need. We provided over \$500 worth of supplies to supplement what the children were able to bring in themselves. We will continue to accept supply donations through September.

\*Thanks to the five dedicated volunteers who gave generously of their time and love for the August *Open M Mountain of Food*.

### **September Ministries:**

\* *Mountain of Food*: Friday, September 16 is the next Open M monthly food distribution. Meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. to carpool.

\***Remember Good Neighbors**. Food and household items like paper-goods and cleaners are always needed. Small donations add up to big help. They are now open for donations and distributions the second and fourth Tuesdays each month (Sept. 13 & 27) .A drop-off basket is in our church entryway.

### **Future Events: Plan ahead for**

*The CROP Walk*: Sunday, October 9 at Goodyear Heights Metro Park.

*Trunk or Treat*: Sunday, October 30

*Holiday food drive* for Open M, November 6 through 27

### ***Help is needed!***

If we do not get 4 volunteers to rake leaves for our neighbors, for the first time in almost a decade we will not be able to provide this service. Call the church if you can help on one or two Saturday mornings in late October or early November. Dates determined by the fallen leaves.

### ***As an OPEN M covenant church, here are services we help provide.***

*Open M* is truly a beacon of hope and a strong representation of what can be accomplished when people come together in Christian love to support their communities. Among their most critical services, they provide free **medical care** at their clinic, **job-training/retention** programs, and other educational programs. These programs foster development of life skills to help make productive, self-reliant, positive thinking people. Their most widely used service is **providing food**. Over 41,000 people are fed annually. They provide approximately 100 days of free community lunches! Their *emergency food pantry* operates daily to provide a 3-day supply of food for families in crisis. The monthly *Mountain of Food* provides a variety of food, including fresh produce and baked goods, sometimes for as many as 350 families. Thanks-giving dinner and holiday food baskets reach hundreds of needy families every year. **For an in-depth description of all Open M programs, go to [www.openm.org](http://www.openm.org).**

*Thanks for your prayerful support of these important ministries.*

## *Let's Grow Together in Christ!*

### **Sunday School for Everyone!**

This is a drop-in class; come when you can! Leader Fred Slocum encourages lively discussion around the Bible and current events. Sometimes the group simply enjoys fellowship time. They meet at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall. For more information, contact Fred Slocum at (330) 628-1013.

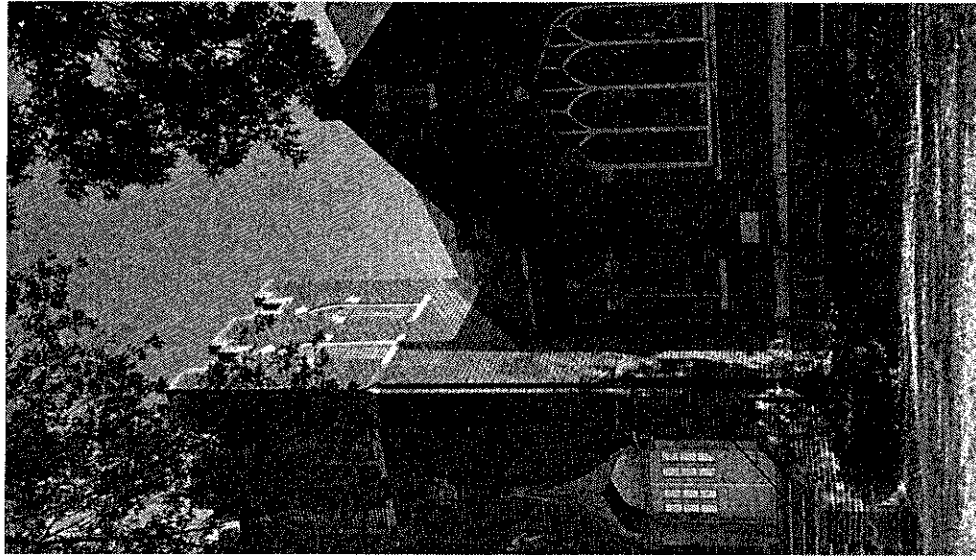
### **United Women in Faith/UM Women**

United Women in Faith is a community of women whose foremothers laid a foundation for mission for more than 150 years, a mission we carry on today. Our commitment to mission, to spiritual growth and to one another can be admired. With God's help our light will shine so that all women, children and youth throughout the world realize hope in their lives. All women are invited to find joy in this journey and join us the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. For more information, contact Lynn Straight at (330) 628-4174 or the church office at (330) 628-1232.

### **Serving with a Smile**

We at Mogadore UMC seek to know and serve God in all people. Every month there are a variety of local mission projects. To learn more please contact the church office at (330) 628-1232 or Russ Hull at (330) 628-1552.

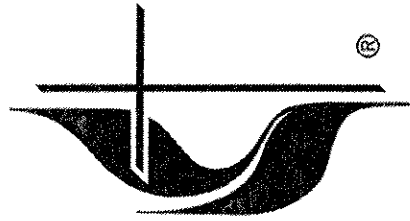
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



## **Back to Soul School**

**Fall Activities  
at Mogadore United  
Methodist Church**

Mogadore United Methodist Church  
3828 Mogadore Road  
Mogadore, Ohio 44260



## Who We Are

The mission of the Mogadore United Methodist Church is to follow the example of Jesus Christ, demonstrating Christ's love, and service to others through worship, outreach, fellowship and spiritual growth.

Mogadore United Methodist Church  
3828 Mogadore Road  
Mogadore, Ohio 44260  
(330) 628-1232  
mogadoreumc@att.net  
www.mogadoreumc.org

Rev. Pamela Buzalka, Pastor

## Fall Kick-Off Celebration

Sunday, September 11

10:30 am. Worship Service  
at Lions Park  
Pavilion 1 & 2

Bring a blanket or lawn chairs  
Church Picnic will follow

RSVP by calling  
(330) 628-1232  
or email  
mogadoreumc@att.net



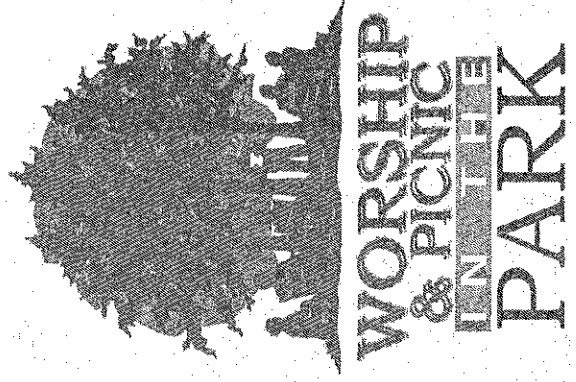
## Coffee & Conversation: The Gospel of Matthew

Wednesday mornings  
from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Beginning September 21

Rev. Pam will lead our discussion of the Gospel of Matthew. We will look at how the Scripture spoke to the people of its time, how it speaks to our world today, and to our own hearts. We are a community of learners desiring to grow in Christ and community.

Bring a Bible, and a notebook might be helpful. Rev. Pam will supply discussion and reflection guides as the class progresses.

If you have any questions or would like to register, contact Rev. Pam .





# September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Communion	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6 SPRC & Pastor's Paperwork due to district office 6:30 p.m. Executive Board	7 6 p.m. Girl Scouts	8	9	10
11 Worship in the Park and Picnic to follow	12	13	14 6:30 p.m. Rebecca Circle 6:30 p.m. Nominating Committee	15	16 7:30 a.m. Meet at the church to carpool to Open M Mountain of Food	17
18	19 6 p.m. Naomi Circle NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 5 p.m. SPRC Con- sultations begin 8 p.m. MUMC SPRC Consultation with the DS	21 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Girl Scouts	22	23	24
25	26	27 6:30 p.m. United Women in Faith	28 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	29	30 Charge Conference Paperwork due to district office	



**Church Staff:**

Pastor: Rev. Pamela Buzalka

Church: (330) 628-1232

Parsonage: (234) 813-9040

Pastor's Cell: (216) 704-0307

Accompanist: Fran Snyder

Custodian: David Smith

Secretary: Joyce Selzer

«First\_Name» «Last\_Name»

«Location»

«Address»

«City» «State» «zip»

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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