



# The Messenger

Mogadore United  
Methodist Church

December 2022

## Joy to the World - Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room

I love Christmastime! I am filled with joy this year as I engage in ministry in this very special community of faith and love. I bought a new Christmas tree as our old one was only half lit. I now have many vintage ornaments from my parent's home which will bring a tear and a smile as Caiden and I decorate the new tree blending the old with the new. There is a grace in that holy union of past and present!

The traditions will reach outward -- I will have lights put up in front of the parsonage. And the seasonal fun reaches the kitchen: I hope this holiday season I will finally bake some of the recipes I have been collecting: Brick Street chocolate cake, cranberry and eggnog trifle, chocolate cherry cordial cookies, cranberry cheesecake and more -- maybe even Mom's awesome gingerbread or fruitcake recipes although I am the main fan in the family of such delights! I may even renew the family tradition of making a Victorian era recipe for flaming plum pudding! Many sweet memories have been born in the now dented dome shaped pudding pans- Dad's yearly concerns that the brandy fueled flames would get out of control and boldly leap from the platter soothed by the delighted faces around the table or my daughter's pleasure in her middle school years in telling her befuddled friends that her parents "liked to light a cake on fire every Christmas."



Some Christmas celebrations have had their share of sadness as beloved family members were no longer at the table, or traditions were left behind as children grew up; sometimes concerns about a loved one's or one's own health, personal finances, challenging transitions of any kind and unfulfilled Christmas dreams have threatened to tarnish the tinsel.

But whatever road we travel each year, our good God always places the brightest star of faith on our paths to lead us to Bethlehem. The store may be out of cranberries, loved ones may become grinchies, the turkey might be dry, and the cat may well knock over the Christmas tree, but with the Christ child in the manger of our hearts there will be love in our world, and we will be able to bring good news of great joy to all people.

Life is unpredictable; our journey in God a sacred mystery, but in Christ there is boundless love and an everlasting Christmas!

With Christmas Love and Prayers for a New Year filled with Grace!

Rev. Pam

*Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m.*

*Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day service at 10:30 a.m.*

## 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)
August Offerings	\$9,703.49	
August Disbursements	\$17,421.90	(-7,718.41)
September Offerings	\$13,275.35	
September Disbursements	\$12,402.69	872.66
October Offerings	\$13,838.75	
October Disbursements	\$13,123.24	715.51

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

<b>Ending Balance on October 31, 2022</b>		<b>\$17,310.56</b>
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The October offerings of \$13,838.75 were below average for a five Sunday month, and the October disbursements of \$13,123.24 were about normal. If you are interested in online giving, please contact either Kathy Lang or Gabby Heminger, and they can get you set up. If you are unable to attend our Sunday morning services, offerings can be mailed to the church, or to my home address of 13523 Iris Ave. N.W., Mogadore, OH 44260.

— Barry Rudy, Treasurer

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

\* **CROP Walk:** A huge thanks to the seven walkers who helped raise \$715 to assist *Church World Services* in their efforts to provide sustainable food options both locally and throughout the world.

\* **Holiday food drive for Open M:** Thank-you to everyone who contributed to our successful collection of spaghetti. You helped fill holiday food needs for 200 families. Bless you for sharing.

### **Looking Ahead**

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

We have already reached our goal of providing 30 Christmas gifts for needy Mogadore school families. Thanks to those of you who made this possible! However, many more requests for assistance remain, and we'd like to also provide food gift cards for a holiday celebration meal. If you are able to help with cash donations, please get your check to church by December 12. Be sure to put adopt a family in the memo line. 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 27 until January 8 to collect hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks for distribution to needy children in the school and through *Ellet Good Neighbors*. We will be delivering the first batch on December 12 for pre-Christmas distribution. The second delivery will be January 9, so please be sure to get them to church by January 8.

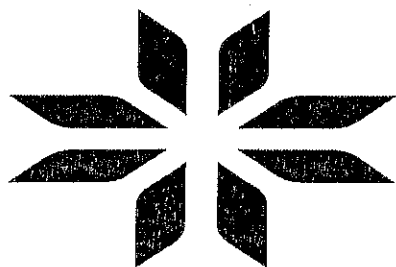
\* **Christmas in the Village:** Once again, we are providing a station at this annual holiday celebration. We will be distributing *Happy Birthday Jesus* activity books for children ages 3-9, prayer cards for families, coffee for adults, and candy for all. If you would like to help staff the booth between 2 and 4:30 p.m. please let Russ know at 330-628-1552. Whether you can help or not, please plan to stop by the Village Hall and share in the festivities. See you there!

\* **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.

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



Thank you to all who helped within and outside the walls of MUMC this year. Your selfless service to showing and sharing Christ's love is a blessing. May you continue to serve the community and church with your generous spirit.



# United Women in Faith

Greetings,

The Christmas season; such a complex holiday. We see all around us the vision of what Christmas should be yet somehow it never seems to live up to the hype. The reality is that it's not the latest greatest gadget to buy but sharing our Christian faith with others and celebrating the birth of Jesus. This past year has been so hard for all of us in losing so many dear friends and knowing we won't be able to spend the holidays with them hurts my soul. Some of the pomp and circumstance doesn't seem as important as just being able to break bread with people that make your heart sing.

Our group will hold "Christmas Dinner with Old Friends" on December 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the fellowship hall with each of us bringing a special part of the meal using recipes from editions of our group cookbook from our cherished friends. If you are able to help with our decorations for the dinner plan on meeting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 7 in the fellowship hall.

The past month we elected our officers for 2023:

President — Lynn Straight

Vice Presidents — Carol Groh and Kelly Rick

Secretary — Fran McClary

Treasurer — Michele Acord

Communications — Sonia Stockett

Spiritual Growth — Barb Skye

Membership Nurture and Outreach — Bette Sawicki

Nominating — Judy Daniels

Rebecca Circle will be meeting at O'Charley's for dinner at 5:30 p.m., then travel to Joyce Hull's home on Wednesday, December 14.

Naomi Circle will be meeting at The Venue for dinner on Tuesday, December 6 at 6 p.m.

Our beloved sister Joyce Calderwood has been an inspiration to me and all that knew her. Her love of Christ and calm manner, wit and charm was a true gift to all of us. I am so very grateful to have been able to spend time with her. I will follow the recipe, Joyce, and I love you.

Sincerely,

Sonia Stockett

**Church Officers & Committee Chairs: 2023**  
**Mogadore United Methodist Church**

<b>Executive Council</b>	
Co-Chairmen	Fred Slocum
Lay Member to Annual Conf.	Forest Thorn
Lay Leader	
Treasurer	Barry Rudy
Financial Secretary	Kathy Lang
Finance Committee Chair	Barry Rudy
UMW President	Lynn Straight
SPRC	Brenda Heminger
Trustee Co-Chairs	Chuck Lang; Michele Acord
Missions Coordinator	Russ Hull
In-Reach Co-Chairs	Missy Hill; Sonia Stockett
Memorials Committee Chair	Sharon Fitting
Altar Guild Chair	JoAnn Wolonsky
Dist. At-Large Delegate	Carol Groh
<b>Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Brenda Heminger, Chair</b>	
Class of 2021-2023	Brenda Heminger
Class of 2022-2024	Michele Acord
	Fred Slocum
	Emily Hill
Class of 2023-2025	Sonia Stockett
Ex-Oficio	(Lay Leader)
	Forest Thorn (Lay Member to Conference)
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	
Treasurer	Barry Rudy
Financial Secretary	Kathy Lang
At-Large Members	Ralph Lowe
	Karen Mullett
	Lynn Straight
Book of Discipline Reps.	Michele Acord, Trustees {SPRC Rep} (Executive Committee) Ex-Oficio – Forest Thorn (Lay Member)

**Board of Trustees: Chuck Lang & Michele Acord, Co-Chairs**

Class of 2021-2023	Doug Straight
	Fran McClary
	Don Whitmer
Class of 2022-2024	Chuck Lang
Class of 2023-2025	David Stockett

**Committee on Nominations and Leadership: (Chaired by Pastor)**

Class of 2021-2023	
Class of 2022-2022	Fred Slocum
Class of 2021 – 2023	Missy Hill
	Ron Skye
Ex officio	(Lay Leader)

## December Birthdays

December 1 Doug Benjamin  
 December 2 Phyllis Watson  
 December 5 Val Short  
 December 6 Nicole Thomas  
 December 7 Tamara Calderwood  
 December 8 Sue Vargo  
 December 11 Carrie Stefan  
 December 12 Deb Wiseman  
 December 14 Lynne Shaffer  
 December 16 Lisa Seibel  
 Emily Hill  
 December 20 JoAnn Wolonsky  
 December 29 Tanner Hill



### *Scripture Readings for December*

*December 4 Isaiah 11: 1-10*

*December 11 Isaiah 35: 1-10*

*December 18 Luke 1: 26-38*

*December 24 Luke 2: 1-20*

With the passing of Joyce Calderwood our church lost one of its long time members. Joyce was as much a part of MUMC as the windows we are so proud of. When we lose someone of prominence we refer to them as a pillar of the community. A pillar supports everything around it. Joyce was a pillar to her family, this church, and the community. We will miss her; heaven will be better with her around. The kitchen will be better organized and the angels better fed.

Karen Hyde has been moved to AlterCare in Brimfield for rehab. Her phone is back in service (330-754-7527), so a call or a card will let her know we are thinking of her. Her address is 1463 Tallmadge Road, Room 308, Kent, Ohio 44240.

— Fred Slocum

# Mogadore Christmas in the Village

Saturday, December 10, 2022, 2:30-5:30 pm

## Special Events:

**2:30- 4:30 \*NEW\***

Strolling magic show with the Michael Mage Experience, visit with a roving magician as he roams around to all event locations. Sponsored by the **Mogadore Branch Library**.

**3:00-4:30**

Visit with Santa as he roams throughout the event (Don't miss his arrival by fire truck!)

- Please bring your camera or cell phone with you so you don't miss out on this photo opportunity.

**3:30-4:30**

Erik Freay from Ice Artistry and Design will be creating a special holiday ice sculpture in front of the high school.

**5:30**

Mystery Prize Giveaway!! Wristbands will be distributed in the municipal building beginning at 5:00 to win our mystery prize. All ages are eligible to win. You must be present at the drawing to claim your prize.

## Mogadore Branch Library:

**2:30-3:30**

Recorded performance by the O.H. Somers Third and Fifth Grade, played on a continuous loop

**2:30-4:00**

Holiday Crafts

**2:30-4:45**

Hot Chocolate and Cookies

**3:00-4:45**

Balloon Animals with Rick Everhart

**3:30-4:30**

Recorded performance by the O.H. Somers Elementary Bands, played on a continuous loop

## Mogadore High School & Middle School:

**2:30-4:30** Face Painting with Chroma Fun Face Painting, sponsored by **OH Somers PTSO**

**2:30-4:45**

Holiday Crafts, sponsored by **OH Somers PTSO**

Hot Dogs, sponsored by **Port-Summit Rotary**

Mini Tree Decorating Contest Voting and Sales

## The Village of Mogadore Municipal Building:

**2:30-4:30**

Train Rides from the Magical Train

**2:30-4:30**

Activity Books, Candy, and Coffee provided by

**Mogadore Methodist Church**

**2:30-4:45**

Snack and Information Table

**5:00**

Holiday Sing-Along at the Gazebo with the Mogadore High School Choir

**5:30**

Tree Lighting Ceremony by Mayor Michael Rick, tree donated by the **Mogadore Lions Club**

## Mogadore Historical Society:

**2:30-4:45**

Christmas Stocking Stuffers

Train Displays at the Depot

Christmas Treats

Walks Through the Museum

## My Community Life Church:

**2:30-4:45**

Beautiful Sounds of Christmas Music

Giant Toboggan Slide

Special Treats

Create an Ornament for our Community Tree

## Mogadore Police Department:

**2:30-4:30**

Fill a Cruiser with non-perishable food items, only

## Mogadore Fire Department:

**2:30-4:45**

Explore the Fire Truck

Ice Cream Sundaes

**Rubbermaid**, while supplies last

## November 25-December 13

Write a letter to Santa and we will see that it gets to the North Pole. Letters can be written and dropped off at the Mogadore Branch Library. Letters must include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want a letter back from Santa and must be received no later than December 13. Letters received after that date will not make it to the North Pole on time.

A special thank you to Edward Jones Investments, Acme Fresh Market, Rubbermaid, Mogadore Lions Club, Rubbermaid, Port-Summit Rotary, Custom Cookies by Sarah M., Mogadore Police Department, Mogadore Fire Department, American Legion Post 452, Roma's Bar and Grille, Akron Rubber Ducks, Melanie Lake Inc., OH Somers PTSO, Kent Lanes and all of our volunteers for donating to Mogadore Christmas in the Village.



**Akron-Summit County  
Public Library**

Mogadore Branch Library  
144 S. Cleveland Ave., Mogadore, OH, 44280  
[www.akronlibrary.org](http://www.akronlibrary.org)

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# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Second Sunday of Advent Communion Choir Rehearsal following worship	5	6	7 10 a.m. Set up for Friday dinner in fellowship hall 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	8	9	10
11 Third Sunday of Advent Choir Rehearsal following worship	12	13	14 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Rebecca Circle 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts	15	16 7:30 a.m. Meet at the church to carpool to Open M Mountain of Food	17 2 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent Choir Cantata	19	20	21 10:30 a.m. Portage Patchers	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 7 p.m. Service
25 Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. Worship	26 Church Office will be closed	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve



**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»

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