

The Messenger

Mogadore United
Methodist Church

January 2023

THIS VERY DAY...

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE —

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!

Psalm 118:24

Happy and Blessed New Year to our Mogadore United Methodist Church family! I am very hopeful as I begin this new year 2023 — after all, my grandsons Caiden and Carmelo both have claim on a 23rd for their birthdays (May and September respectively). My dear Mom also had a 23rd birthday; hers was in March. Since I have had e-mail, 23 has been part of my e-identity. I am glad the number 23 is part of the new year, but much more importantly I begin this new month and new year with joy, with hope, and with confidence because our good God is not only part of this season of newness — God is the very heart of it.

The ancient Roman god Janus, for whom this month is named is pictured with two heads — one looking backward and one looking forward. I suppose this is part of the reality of change and newness. But I think Psalm 118 has another message for those who follow Jesus. While there are certainly times in our lives when we are called to prayerfully ponder our past and future days, most of the time we are to spend in the day and in the moment. As the psalmist wrote: "This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it." How present are we to the God who is lighting the stars in the sky and who lives, and breathes, and has his being with us (Acts 17:28)? Are we living in this very day where God seeks through ordinary things to bless our lives with extraordinary grace? Do we savor our meals or rush through them barely tasting our food? Do we listen with attentiveness to the sounds of nature or the words others speak to us? Do we smell the season in the air? Do we see our lives as a series of tasks to perform or a gift of miracles to embrace?

Often fear and anxiety keep us from the abundant life God calls us to each and every day. Jesus spoke to this very human condition in the Sermon on the Mount:

O ye of little faith... do not be anxious but seek first the God's kingdom and his righteousness and these things will be added unto you....Do not be anxious about tomorrow for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.. (Matthew 6:25-34)

Jesus showed us how to live this way; Jesus was attentive to those who sat by the side of the road. Jesus saw healed, forgave, and taught those he encountered. He did not have a fretful mind or an overloaded to do list to keep him from the work of divine Love.

In this new year 2023, let us choose Jesus over Janus! Let us rejoice in each day because as the beloved hymn reminds us: life is worth the livin' just because he lives!

With New Year's Love and Prayer,

Rev. Pam

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.

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
**November Offerings	\$16,405.22	
November Disbursements	\$18,535.96	(-2130.74)

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

**The November offerings include \$4,000.00 transferred from the investment account.

Ending Balance on November 30, 2022		\$15,179.82
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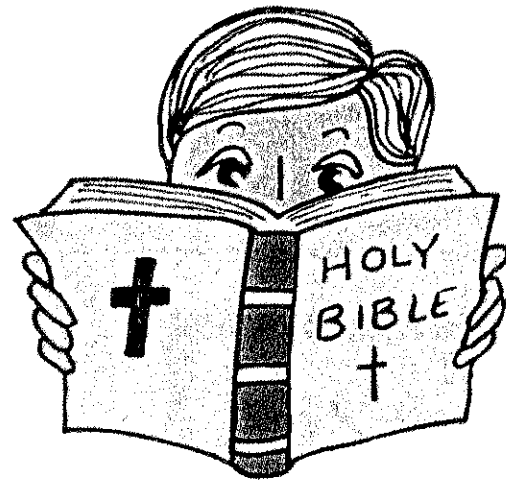
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The actual November offerings of \$12,405.22 (an additional \$4,000.00 was transferred from investments) were a little below average for a four Sunday month. The November disbursements of \$18,535.96 were well above normal, and included \$3,300.00 for the pastor's moving expenses and \$2,196.75 for quarterly property insurance. 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, Ohio 44260.

— Barry Rudy, Treasurer

Scriptures for January

- January 1 Revelation 21: 1-6a
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13
- January 8 Epiphany Sunday
Matthew 2:1-12
Isaiah 60:1-6
- January 15 Human Relations Sunday
Matthew 25: 31-46
Genesis 1: 27
- January 22 Matthew 4: 12-23
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
- January 29 Micah 6:1-8
Matthew 5: 1-12



January Birthdays

- January 2 Elaine Swartz
January 18 Dorothy Pollock
January 19 Jan Ramsey
January 21 Lynn Straight
Ariana Crockett
January 22 Nancy Roepke
January 24 Kathy Cullison
January 31 Karen Mullett
Michele Straight



Please lift up the following in prayer ...

Kathy Cullison, Duke Huth, Karen Mullett, Don Roepke, Mae Talbott, Phyllis Watson, Deb Wiseman, Our Children, Grandchildren and All Those in Need

Community & World Needs: Our nation and her leaders, those looking for employment, people going through illness; the people of Ukraine; the people of Iran; the earthquake in Indonesia; those affected by gun violence; those suffering from famine in Somalia and throughout the world; justice, wisdom & compassion for those dealing with border concerns; for those (humans and animals) suffering due to the cold and winter storms

At Home & Care Facilities: Duane Doss, Betty Gallo, Joe Horan, Gerry Hunsucker, Karen Hyde, Steve Lambey, Dorothy Pollock, Virginia Reynolds, Harry Smith

Friends & Family: Ashley, Val Short's niece; Barbra Brophy, Fred Slocum's sister; Robert Duncan, Fred Slocum's son; Evon Harris; Sally Lympany, Don Whitmer's sister; Jean McClary, Tom McClary's mother; Carol Michl; Esther Rush; Linda Tremel, JoAnn Wolonsky's daughter

Please contact the church office at (330) 628-1232 or mogadoreumc@att.net to add or remove names



Pastor Pam and the boys would like to thank everyone for the prayers, good wishes and acts of kindness during the Christmas season and always.

A Prayer for Hope in the New Year

Dear Lord, as the new year begins, I look to You for our hope, joy, and peace. Give me the courage to do all that You ask of me. Please also make me brave to not do what isn't from You. Show me how to walk in grace and embrace Your love for me even more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

— Holly Gerth



MUMC in Mission: Sharing Christ's Love

A HUGE THANK YOU TO:

The Prayer Warriors

The positive impact of your prayers was felt by so many people during this challenging year

Everyone who provided help, encouragement, physical, and emotional support to friends, neighbors, and fellow congregants. Perhaps hundreds of untold hours were spent chauffeuring to pharmacies, doctors, grocery stores, and providing personal care and medical assistance to folks who needed a helping hand. Lots and lots of visits, phone calls and cards delivered to help cheer and encourage the sick, shut-in, and homebound.

The dedicated **OPEN M Mountain of Food** crew who provided over 100 volunteer hours. Despite the complications, these folks showed up to every food distribution this year.

The 10 **CROP WALK** hikers who raised \$700 for food sustainability programs.

The cooks, servers and clean-up crew who helped feed football players, cheerleaders, and coaching staff before one of their playoff games.

The **kind spirits** behind another successful *Trunk or Treat event*.

Adopt-a-Family donors who provided at least 40 Christmas Presents for needy children in addition to the outreach funds donated.

Food basket donations from so many of you who helped provide 200 packages of spaghetti for the **OPEN M Christmas** food basket give-away.

Special donations for *Good Neighbors, Mogadore Schools, Open M*, and several local residents with emergency needs combining for a total of \$7,000 in addition to everything above.

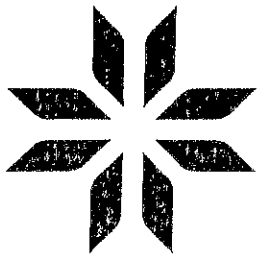
Mitten tree donations

As of this writing we have collected over 100 items of clothing donated to Somers Elementary School and *Ellet Good Neighbors*, with another 2 weeks of collection still to go.

We also paid **100% of our Benevolence Apportionments**.

Whether you gave time, talent, money, effort, prayer, or all the above, your church family thanks you for all you do to "feed His lambs and sheep." God bless you all, and have a Spirit filled 2023.

A SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT TO SOMERS ELEMENTARY 6TH GRADERS who donated 200 pounds of toiletries, hats, gloves, socks, and blankets to *Haven of Rest*. This is an ongoing program, and you can contact the school if you wish to donate.



United Women in Faith

Happy New Year!

Looking forward to a fresh start in 2023 may require a look back to help us on our way. Our United Women in Faith Christmas celebration dinner was a beautiful time remembering all the wonderful women that shaped our group. Hearing the stories of our dear sisters had us crying, laughing and cherishing the time of being together. We were so happy that Pastor Pam was able to join us and get a chance to know us and learn of our beloved sisters that are no longer with us but are always in our hearts. The guidance and wisdom gathered from our past will strengthen us and together we can make a difference!

The mission of United Women in Faith is “To connect and nurture women so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities”.

A powerful mission statement that provides us an opportunity to not only give back but gain in knowledge, spiritual meaning and friendships. If you are interested in attending a circle group or to attend our monthly meeting, we would be delighted to have you join us.

Rebecca circle will meet at Michele Acord's home for a salad supper Jan 11 at 6:30

Naomi circle will meet at Carol Groh's home Jan 16 at 6:00

United Women in Faith meeting is Jan 24 at 6:30

**“She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future”
Proverbs 31:25**

Sonia Stockett

**SPECIAL
SUNDAY**

“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

—ISAIAH 49:6

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY
JANUARY 15, 2023



**RESTORING
COMMUNITY**



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

**SPECIAL
SUNDAY**

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY RESTORING COMMUNITY



On Human Relations Day, we join with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Our gifts work together to build community and share God's love. The Human Relations Day offering supports programs like the South Los Angeles Mission Centers which recently launched a Community Computer Lab at Saint Mark UMC, Los Angeles.

The Community Computer Lab provides space for distance learning, internet access, senior assistance, resume building, employment application, government/public benefits, school assignments, copying, faxing, scanning, housing searches and medical care needs.



Volunteers offer a welcoming, clean, peaceful environment for all who enter, and even for those whom it is hard to enter. For example, a senior visited the community computer lab in need of photocopies. When she arrived at the site she phoned to ask if someone could come out to her car, get the document, and make five copies. After all was done, she suggested the lab could offer a Curbside Copying service.

In a neighborhood with limited economic resources, the community computer lab is providing a space for people of all ages to access technological tools while creating a sense of community and hospitality. Program leadership is thankful for how God is working through them to provide services and remove obstacles for the community to thrive.

We know how systemic inequality affects the most vulnerable people. As a denomination, our gifts on Human Relations Day work together to empower faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens.

HOW TO GIVE:

Give through your local church or donate online at UMC.org/SSGive. Make checks payable to your local church and write "Human Relations Day offering" in the memo line.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	2	3 6 p.m. SPRC	4 10:30 a.m. Bible Study resumes	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Rebecca Circle 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts	12	13	14
15 Human Relations Day Special Offering	16 MLK Day 6 p.m. Naomi Circle	17	18 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Portage Patchers	19	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:30 a.m. Meet at the church to car-pool to Open Mountain of Food	21
22	23	24 6:30 p.m. United Women in Faith	25 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts	26	27	28
29	30	31				



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
3828 Mogadore Road, Mogadore, OH 44260
(330) 628-1232 Email: mogadoreumc@att.net

Website: www.mogadoreumc.org

Find us on FaceBook!

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

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays