



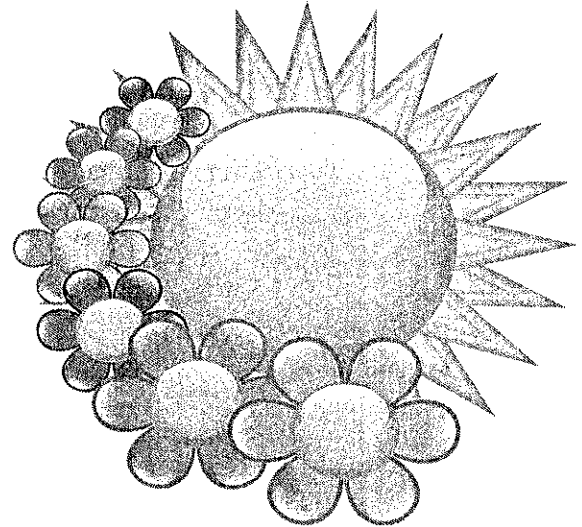
The Messenger

Mogadore United
Methodist Church

May 2023

i thank you god for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything

which is natural which is infinite which is yes
(i who have died am alive again today
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings; and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)
how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?
(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)
—e.e. cummings



Recently a good friend from my days as a student of literature and I recently joked that it seems like words from great writers as well as classic rock tunes flowed through our thoughts. I am sure we are not alone in this. My father would on occasion quote Shakespeare or Rudyard Kipling as well as famous Americans like Lincoln or MacArthur; he did not lean to classic rock but was known to sing verses from classic Broadway musicals — with more joyful zeal than artistry!

Today with the glow and glory of Easter still fresh in my spirit and the beauty of spring unfolding around me, I came upon a favorite poem of mine. The poem “I thank you god” by American poet e. e. cummings always brings light and grace to my soul.

Like many spiritual writers, cummings invites us to be awake- awake to the daily miracles of life. The poet speaks of eyes opening in ways that evoke for me Jesus opening the eyes of the blind: those who are physically blind and those whose minds and hearts lack sacred vision. For Jesus, 20/20 vision is what happens when we realize we have logs in our eyes, when we seek his healing touch to have them taken away and when we are then able to look upon all people with his own profound compassion.

The Creator’s gift of spring, the Savior’s Easter salvation, and the Spirit’s life within our hearts all wake up our sleepy souls — for this and for all that is good and beautiful and YES — I thank you, God.

With Eastertide Love,
Rev. Pam

Graduation Season is coming fast — please let the church office know of any graduations in your family that we need to celebrate!

Treasurer's Report

Balance in General Fund as of January 1, 2023		\$18,363.65
January Offerings	12,943.02	
January Disbursements	14,937.01	(-1,993.99)
February Offerings	11,191.21	
February Disbursements	15,379.20	(-4,187.99)
March Offerings	18,586.63	
March Disbursements	12,631.98	5,954.65
Ending Balance on March 31, 2023		\$18,136.32

The March offerings of \$18,586.63 were well above average for the month, and a big improvement in our General Fund balance for the year-to-date. Our March disbursements of \$12,631.98 were a little below average in comparison to the March disbursements from a year ago. If you are interested in on-line giving, please contact either Kathy Lang or Gabby Heminger, and they can get our 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. NW, Mogadore, Ohio 44260.

— Barry Rudy, Treasurer

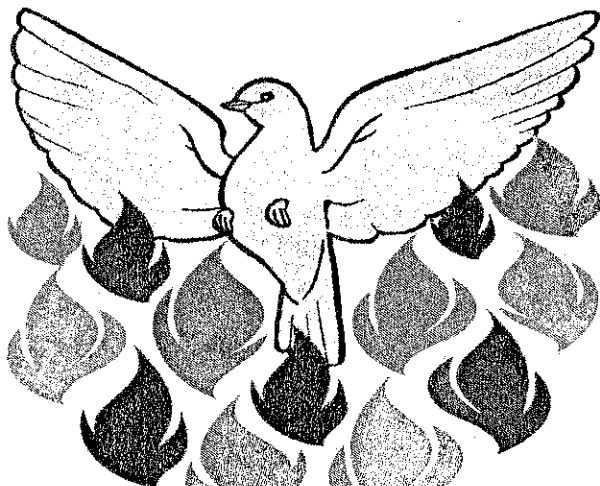
May Birthdays

May 5 Ali Peak
 May 6 Fred Slocum
 May 10 Gabby Heminger
 May 12 Michele Acord
 May 14 Dave Cullison
 May 15 Carol Mencer
 May 19 Jessica Straight
 May 20 John Sawicki
 May 23 Caiden Hamilton
 Chuck Lang
 May 25 Cheryl McInturff
 May 27 Alex Heminger
 May 29 Karen Hyde



Amazing Grace, Amazing Week!

So many gifted and gracious hearts made our journey together from Holy Week to Easter so very rich in grace! Thanks to those who sang, worshipped, brought in candy and treats, passed out Peeps, cooked, set-up, cleaned-up, cut bread, poured juice, hid eggs, taught children, washed dishes, served as readers, and arranged flowers. Special thanks to Fran Snyder, JoAnn Wolonsky, Kathy Lang, Judy Daniels, Carol Groh, Brenda & Gabby Heminger, Missy Hill, Sonia Stockett, Michele Acord and Joyce Selzer, along with our Easter breakfast chefs Sue Thomas, Barry Rudy and Fred Slocum.



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!**

Acts 2.4

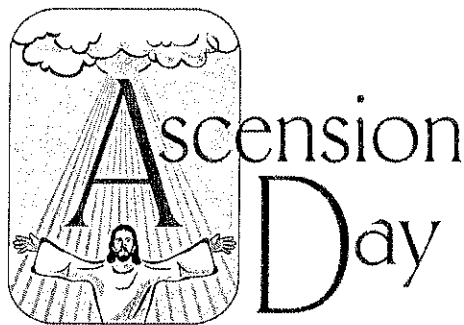
VERY SPECIAL WORSHIP MAY 28

On May 28 the church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost; on this day we are thankful for the graces of the Holy Spirit and we rejoice in the birth of the universal church. In honor of this day worshippers are encouraged to wear red. We will enjoy a fellowship time with birthday cake afterwards.

In addition, we will recognize Memorial Day. If you have a family member or dear friend who died in the service of our country please let us know his or her name, branch of the service, war or conflict so that we might honor them.

MAY SCRIPTURES

- May 7 Holy Communion
John 14:1-14
- May 14 Mother's Day
John 14:15-21
- May 21 Ascension Sunday
Acts 1: 1-11
- May 28 Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2: 1-21



Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the church will be having a Parking Lot Yard Sale! We will need volunteers Friday, June 9, 2023 to help set up tables and items to sell (time to be determined) as well as volunteers throughout the day of the sale. In the meantime, we are beginning NOW to collect donations for this yard sale. Items can be placed in the Fellowship Hall underneath the coat rack across from the kitchen. If you have heavy or extra-large items we can find room in the garage. If anyone needs assistance in picking up your donation to bring to the church, please contact Brenda Heminger at 330-524-1332.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Church of Mogadore UMC,

God is good ... all the time.

Your prayers are being answered! After two months the removal of tons of contaminated water and soil continues, but is expected to be completed in two more.

Our little town is coming back anew and approved — Praise the Lord!

Norfolk Southern has paid every citizen within 1 to 2 miles of the derailment site and continues to reimburse receipts for those displaced and for various home and air cleaning devices and services.

We receive trucks weekly with water, food, cleaning and sanitizing supplies, etc. from all over the U.S. We are indeed, blessed.

Our church supports the needy with large purchases, holds a free dinner and brunch on alternate months, and rents our parsonage and home at a reduced cost to needy families.

Thank you for the post cards, especially the Girl Scouts — you go, girls!

You have a lovely church from the postcards shared.

May God bless you also. He loves your good deeds.

God bless you always.

Love,

Emmanual UMC Leadership Council

East Palestine, Ohio

Cabinet Redistricting Proposal to Annual Conference 2023

“Flexibility, Creativity, Courage”

Considering rapid changes in our church and culture, Bishop Tracy S. Malone convened a task group to look at current trends and consider how to best address these realities. The primary task of this group was to study these realities and recommend how many districts are needed in the East Ohio Conference to address these trends and to best position Conference laity and clergy to live into our shared vision and mission. Bishop Malone introduced the process for redistricting in February 2022. Per ¶ 415.4 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016*, the bishop and district superintendents will “form the districts, after the number of the same has been determined by vote of the Annual Conference.”

Following the action of the 2023 East Ohio Annual Conference to determine the number of districts Bishop Malone and the Cabinet will work to develop new boundary lines at their September meeting. The goal is for new districts to be in place on January 1, 2024.

The task group that studied the current district structure of the East Ohio Conference and provided a written recommendation to Bishop Malone and the Cabinet was comprised of a diverse group of clergy and laity from across the East Ohio Conference. The work of the task group was guided by these three values: flexibility, creativity, and courage.

Flexibility

The number of districts should provide as much flexibility as possible to the gifted lay and clergy leaders of the East Ohio Conference so that they best utilize both our people resources and our financial resources in moving one step closer to living into our shared vision and mission. Redistricting will provide flexibility in Conference and district structures and best position us to be good stewards of people’s time, gifts, and energy so that more financial resources will be available for ministry in the local church.

Creativity

When East Ohio Conference pastors, congregations, and faith communities have flexibility in how vital resources can be used it will free all to be more creative in ministry. One way this creativity has been modeled over the past year has been demonstrated in new models for superintendency. The hope is that these new models will better position districts to be able to more effectively resource and equip churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It is the local church that is the primary place for disciple making and each district is a key grassroots connection for resourcing this primary mission. With more resources at the grass roots level, churches can increase capacity to engage in ministry with their neighbors and communities.

Courage

The task group agreed that with the rapid changes in our church, and culture, it is time to make a bold and courageous change to adapt to these realities. This adaptive change is being proposed so that local churches will feel empowered to expand the transformational ministries that are impacting communities across the State of Ohio. Reducing the number of districts is a courageous way for the East Ohio Conference to be more flexible with resources and more creative missionally so that pastors, congregations, and faith communities can continue to live into our shared vision of reaching new people, younger people, and more diverse people.

Proposal

After receiving and reviewing the report from the task group, the East Ohio Conference Cabinet makes the proposal to the Annual Conference to reorganize around four districts. The Cabinet believes redistricting in this way will empower the East Ohio Conference to be more flexible, creative, and courageous in living into the principle that districts and conferences exist to support the local church. Following Annual Conference action, the next step per ¶ 415.4 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* is for the bishop and Cabinet to work together to draw the district boundaries.

Questions

How will redistricting affect the conference budget and local church apportionments?

All indicators are that this proposal will continue to move us in the direction of lowering the Conference budget, so that more dollars are kept in the local church for mission and ministry.

Will there still be district offices?

District staff play a key role in helping to resource and supporting pastors and local churches. There will continue to be district offices but the form of those offices – be they brick and mortar or remote – is yet to be determined.

How often will we see the district superintendent?

Over the last year, different models for superintendency were piloted. With fewer districts, we will continue to utilize models that ensure clergy and churches receive care and support. You will see your district superintendent as often as you currently do.

How will it be determined who will be in leadership in the new districts?

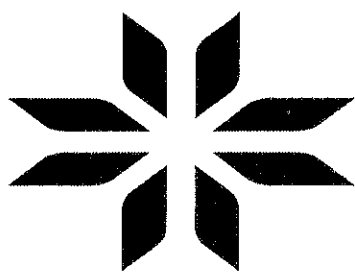
There will be a time of transition for leadership as the district governance structure will also be shifting. There will be discussion with current leaders about this transition. Those who are willing and able to continue to serve in the new districts will be considered for nomination.

How many churches will be in each district?

The exact number of churches is difficult to determine currently. Several factors will be considered when defining district boundaries such as missional needs, county lines, school districts, and population growth.

Who decides the names of the new districts?

The bishop and the East Ohio Conference Cabinet will solicit input from Conference members in a collaborative process to determine the names of the new districts.



United Women in Faith

Our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial for March's meeting led by Barb Skye on racial injustice was very important to hear. The disturbing facts of the school-to-prison pipeline has some alarming statistics that should open eyes that need to be opened. We as United Women in Faith have an obligation on the ongoing work of racial justice. Thank you, Barb, for giving a presentation that was educational and insightful. Hearing of real struggles that are heartbreaking, we continue to pray for hope, understanding and making real change working together as United Women in Faith. Our group provided a gift of \$191.00 to United Women in Faith's long-standing work to implement the Charter for Racial Justice and our campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

Our current Charter for Racial Justice in an Interdependent Global Community:

Because we believe:

1. That God is the Creator of all people, and all are God's children in one family;
2. That racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ;
3. That racism denies the redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ;
4. That racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as justification for social, economic, environmental and political exploitation;
5. That we must declare before God and before one another that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers of other races in thought, in word and in deed;
6. That in our common humanity in creation, all women and men are made in God's image, and all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God;
7. That our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured;
8. That our struggle for justice must be based on new attitudes, new understandings and new relationships, and must be reflected in the laws, policies, structures and practices of both church and state.

The following events will take place:

Rebecca Circle — Connie Heldenfels will be hosting at her home at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 10.**

Naomi Circle — Joyce Whitmer will be hosting in the fellowship hall at **6 p.m. Monday, May 15.**

No general meeting for UWF — we will be delivering special treats!

Sonia Stockett

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts	4	5	6
7 Communion	8	9	10 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Rebecca Circle	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15 6 p.m. Naomi Circle in Fellowship Hall	16	17 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Portage Patchers	18	19 7:30 a.m. Meet at the church to travel to Open M Mountain of Food Newsletter Deadline	20
21 Ascension Sunday	22	23	24 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	25	26	27
28 Pentecost Sunday Wear Red! Memorial Day honored.	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts			



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

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, 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