



The Messenger

Mogadore United
Methodist Church

June 2023

I am the Light of the World. — Jesus , John 8:12

As I have grown older I have become increasingly attentive to the ways the light changes throughout the year. While I love the seasons of autumn and winter, I find something in my spirit rejoices as the light returns gradually after the winter solstice. This month on June 21 the light reaches its fullness. While the gentle blanket of darkness is a sacred part of the rhythm of life, something in our souls moves to the light as surely as the sunflowers which grace our gardens. Something within us longs for the light which is Christ.

We might wish at times that life and discernment were as distinct as morning and night. But when we spend prayerful time with our Bibles, we realize that sometimes choices can be as gray as the northern Ohio sky can be in November.

For example, Acts of the Apostles relates the life of the very early followers of Jesus. Then as now there were things that may have seemed black or white, either or to some folks but were actually gray. Peter, the rock upon whom Jesus was to build the church, strongly felt that non- Jewish males who wanted to become part of the community of believers had to become Jewish first; they had to get circumcised. Of course, Peter felt this way! Circumcision was the outward sign of a man's inner covenant with the one true God. This was absolutely core to the obedient relationship man was to have with God.

The former violent persecutor of Jesus-followers, Paul felt differently. After having been knocked off his high horse of self- righteousness by the light of Christ, Paul believed that in order to draw Gentiles to Jesus and Christian community the circumcision requirement had to be dropped.

What a crazy notion! And after all many claimed Paul was just an upstart; he was not one of Jesus' original apostles who knew him in the flesh. Since the ancient days of Abraham, all true men of God had to be circumcised!

But eventually the light of God's wise spirit shone into the minds of the leaders and the terrible division depicted in Acts was resolved.

Like the early followers of Jesus, we today find ourselves in the gray clouds seeking the light. This is part of being human; this is a reality of our life as church. We are called by God to the light of love even in the midst of times of disputes and discernment. The leaders of our conference have come up with a way for churches to be that light.

As a pastoral response to the problem of fellow United Methodists being displaced by church divisions, the leadership of the East Ohio Conference has invited churches to share the light and welcome of Jesus as Lighthouse Churches. Lighthouse churches would have a special ministry of holy hospitality to persons displaced by division. The leaders of our congregation and I feel led to reflect the light and love of Christ to those seeking a new church home or a place to heal. We have always done so - in Jesus' name.

Let us hold our beloved congregation, our Conference and the world wide United Methodist Church in the light of our prayers in this sun- filled month of June and always!

..... **And God said: Let There Be Light!**
Genesis 1: 3

Please note: During the summer, Rev. Pam's office hours will be Monday & Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday office hours will be by appointment only; feel free to reach out to her to schedule.

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
April Offerings	13,574.80	
April Disbursements	12,453.96	1,120.84
Ending Balance on April 30, 2023		\$19,257.16

The April offerings of \$13,574.80 were disappointing considering it was a five Sunday month, as well as our Easter services. Our offerings for the last Sunday of April (April 30) were one of the lowest Sundays in quite some time, only \$473.00. The April disbursements of \$12,453.96 were about normal. 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

June Scriptures

- June 4 Trinity Sunday
 Peace with Justice Sunday
 A special offering will be taken; more information
 about Peace with Justice Sunday is in the newsletter.
 Russ Hull, Guest Preacher
- June 11 Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-25
 Graduation Sunday
- June 18 Romans 5: 1-8
 Father's Day
- June 25 Genesis 18:1-14



Celebrating Our Discipleship

The Canal District Spring Conference was held on May 13. Our faith community was recognized for our faithful discipleship with three certificates which are posted on the bulletin board. We were recognized for professions of faith, and for giving one hundred percent of our district apportionments and our conference shared ministry apportionments.

Ministry Opportunities

In-Reach — With Love and Joy

In last year Missy Hill and Sonia Stockett have brought back the MUMC In-Reach ministry which shapes us into a true community by planning fun events and occasions for celebration. If you would like to be a part of this ministry please contact Missy or Sonia or Joyce Selzer in the church office.

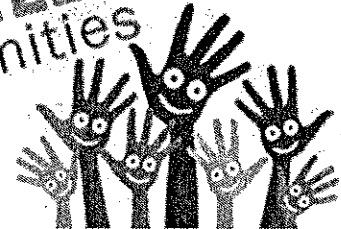
Wonderful Worship

Russ Hull and Rev. Pam have been hard at work supporting all of those who are in worship ministry. If you feel led to try helping in any of these worship ministries, please contact Russ,

Rev. Pam or Joyce Selzer in the church office

- Ushers
- Greeters
- Worship Leaders
- Altar Guild
- Music Ministry/ Choir

WORSHIP
VOLUNTEER
opportunities



In July (date to be determined) there will be a meeting for those interested in working on creative ideas for regular Sunday worship and to begin to vision four special non-traditional evening services in that will be offered quarterly to enrich our worship offerings. All are welcome!

Children/Youth

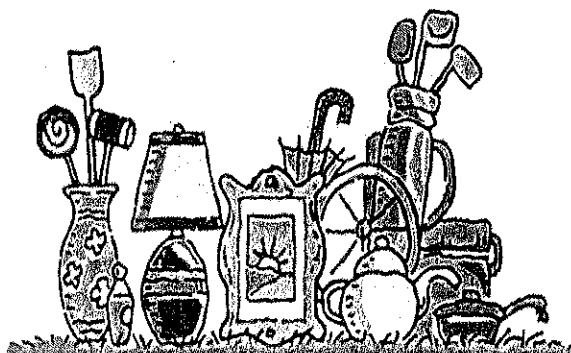


Additional teachers are needed for our Sunday School. Please contact Michele Acord or the church office if you would like to bring Good News with great joy to God's precious children.

Bless the Children

On **June 25** after worship there will be a meeting in the Sunday School Room to discuss plans for reaching out to children and youth. Please come help bring young hearts to Jesus!

Friday, June 9 and Saturday, June 10 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the church will be having a Parking Lot Yard Sale! We will need volunteers Thursday, June 8 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.



Special Sundays of Celebration!

June 11 is Graduation Sunday.

June 18 is Father's Day.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Bailey Acord, Michele Acord's granddaughter, Norton High School.

Ariana Crockett, Keane & Leslie Crockett's daughter and Lynn Straight's granddaughter, Kent Roosevelt High School

Kyle Fitting, grandson of Larry & Sharon Fitting, Mogadore High School

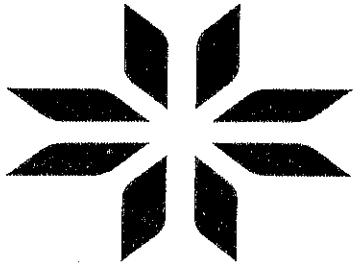
Carmelo Hamilton, Rev. Pam's grandson, O.H. Somers Elementary School

Emily Hill, Missy Hill's daughter and Pam Schmidt's granddaughter; Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Akron

Mady Kohout, Frank Kohout's granddaughter; Bio-Med Science Academy Stem School in Rootstown

Eli Noirot, great-grandson of Fran Snyder, Green High School

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. — Jeremiah 29:11



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith recently worked together to make lovely gifts for some of our church members that haven't been able to attend church in person. Each gift bag was filled with delicious baked goods and spiritual reminders that we are all loved. There will be no general meeting for June and we encourage all to continue to read the articles online in United Women of Faith's website.

The following events will take place:

Rebecca Circle — Jan Ramsey will be hosting at her home at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 14.**

Naomi Circle — Kathy Lang will be hosting in the fellowship hall at **6 p.m. Monday, June 19.**

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." — Romans 15: 13

Sonia Stockett

I want to thank all the ladies for the goodie bag I received. I really enjoyed it.

— Vera Barnhart

June Birthdays

June 5 Meridith Francek

June 6 Emma Peak

June 10 Oakley Soles

June 13 Joyce Hull

June 16 Don Roepke

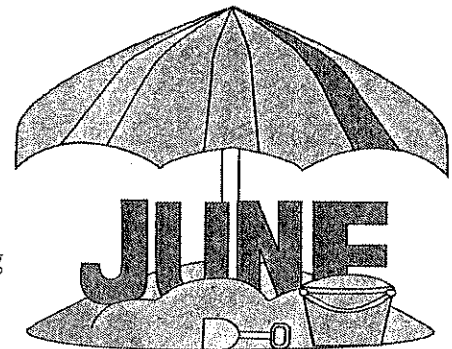
June 19 Missy Hill

June 20 George Thomas

June 26 Sharon Fitting
Whitmer

June 26 Sharon Fitting

June 28 Joyce





June Anniversaries

June 10 Chuck & Kathy Lang

June 21 Don & Nancy Roepke

Don & Nancy will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. Cards may be sent to them at: 1695 Queens Gate Circle, Apt. 231, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221.

A Prayer to Begin Summer

For more light in the day, we thank you,

For gentle mornings, we thank you,

For nighttime conversations, we thank you,

For friends and family, we thank you,

For gardens and all manner of creatures, we thank you.

Help us, Creator and lover of our souls.

Help us love this earth.

Help us dwell wholeheartedly in our lives this day.

Help us pray as we walk, work, play, rest,
and create.

Amen.



**SPECIAL
SUNDAY**

Today is the day
God cries with the masses
of starving people,
despises growing disparity
between rich and poor,
demands justice for
workers in the marketplace.
And so shall we.

—FROM A COMPANION LITANY
TO OUR SOCIAL CREED

PEACE WITH JUSTICE



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

**SPECIAL
SUNDAY**

PEACE WITH JUSTICE



Hafsa is one of over 100 Kalamazoo residents who now has a new cell phone thanks to the Phone Ministry Project of Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church. *Photo courtesy Dick Schilts*

Pace with Justice Sunday is a faithful expression of shalom in the Bible. It calls the church to strengthen its capacity to advocate publicly in communities and nations throughout the world. The offering is administered by the General Board of Church and Society and benefits peace with justice ministries in the annual conferences and around the world. Half of our gifts stay with local ministries in this conference and half support the work of Church and Society globally.

For example, Helping Our Neighbors (HON) has been a community engagement ministry of First United Methodist Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan, since it was created by church member Kim Taylor in 2012. Helping neighbors in need with utilities and eviction notices made the HON team more aware of the greater problems posed by homelessness in Kalamazoo affecting several hundred persons who have taken refuge in area shelters, in their cars, on the streets, with friends and relatives or in one of Kalamazoo's homeless tent encampments.

Moved by regular contact with unhoused people and others who are experiencing challenging circumstances, the HON volunteers have learned by asking "What do you need?" Many of those they have come to know in their service said, "We need a reliable way to communicate with people and places that are essential for our safety and welfare."

In response to that need in the fall of 2021, HON launched a new ministry to provide a free Cricket or T-Mobile cell phone and a year of unlimited free voice, text and data service for persons who qualify under the federal government's new "getemergencybroadband.org" and, beginning in January 2022, the Affordable Connectivity Benefit program.

David Lundquist, a longtime Kalamazoo First UMC, HON and Michigan Conference member, is grateful to the Michigan Conference Board of Justice. The board awarded HON \$3,000 in 2021 to help begin this ministry during its annual grants to worthy projects from funds received through the Michigan United Methodist Conference-wide Peace with Justice offering.

On Peace with Justice Sunday, we partner with other United Methodist congregations in a special offering to support advocacy around the world. Together we strengthen God's creation with ministries that challenge structures of inequality. We empower people and communities through systemic change in ways that bring true and lasting peace with justice. Please give generously.

HOW TO GIVE:

**Write a check to your local church and write "Peace with Justice offering" in the memo line.
To give online or set up monthly giving, go to [UMC.org/SSGive](https://www.UMC.org/SSGive).**



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
	June 8—10 East Ohio Annual Conference at John S. Knight Center in Akron					
4 Trinity Sunday Peace with Justice Sunday	5	6	7 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	8 Set up for the Parking Lot Yard Sale	9 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parking Lot Yard Sale	10 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parking Lot Yard Sale Fellowship Hall in use in the afternoon
11 Graduate Recognition Sunday	12	13	14 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 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
18 Father's Day	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6 p.m. Naomi Circle in Fellowship Hall	20	21 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Portage Patchers	22	23	24
25 Meeting after worship to dis- cuss plans for reaching out to children & youth	26	27	28 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts	29	30	



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