



The Messenger

Mogadore United
Methodist Church

November 2023

Thanks and Giving

***Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name! Psalm 100:4***

As the last leaves fall from the trees and as Christmas music starts to fill the air even before the holy season of Advent begins, we begin our November journey with Jesus. November is a time for Thanks and for Giving.

We begin our journey with the Celebration of All Saints on **November 5**. On this day we express our gratitude for the great saints of old and the saints who have blessed our lives and gone on to glory. All who have lost a loved one in the last year are invited to submit their name and a photo as soon as possible to our church office so we may honor them in worship. We are so thankful for the witness of living they have given. On this day we also remember with profound gratitude our veterans who showed their thankfulness for our great democracy by giving their all in the service of our country.

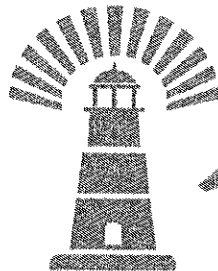
On **November 19** we will celebrate our national Thanksgiving and our Thanks and Giving as a church community. On this Thanks - and- Giving Stewardship Sunday we will reflect with thankful hearts for all that MUMC means to us; we will be invited to live into that gratitude by pledges of our time, tithe, talent, and prayer. For each of us a pledge is an estimate of giving that reflects our discipleship commitments. After worship we will also be "Hanging the Greens" to prepare our sanctuary for the great spiritual seasons of Advent and Christmastide. A light lunch will be served and all are welcome!

On **November 26** the church's year ends; we give thanks and praise to Christ our King. We look to the completion of the reign of God on earth as it is in Heaven. Even as we bid a grateful farewell to a year lived well together in Christ, we take steps into the new year.

How thankful we are that God gave his only son for the life of the world!

With love and gratitude,

Rev. Pam



Lighthouse
CHURCH

EAST OHIO CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church

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 |
| May Offerings | 9,465.01 | |
| May Disbursements | 1,734.19 | (-5,269.18) |
| June Offerings | 10,136.50 | |
| June Disbursements | 10,529.58 | (-393.08) |
| July Offerings | 10,801.42 | |
| July Disbursements | 16,007.97 | (-5,206.55) |
| August Offerings | 17,615.67 | |
| August Disbursements | 15,774.28 | 1,841.39 |
| September Offerings | 15,184.55 | |
| September Disbursements | 12,405.22 | 2,779.33 |
| Ending Balance on September 30, 2023 | | \$12,948.06 |

The September offerings of \$15,184.55 may appear to be good, but it does include the balance of \$4,646.98 that was transferred from Endowment account. The Endowment account is now closed out. Our actual September offerings were \$10,537.57, which is still well below average. Our September disbursements of \$12,405.22 were about average for the month.

If you are interested in on-line giving, please contact Kathy Lang, and she 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. NW, Mogadore, Ohio 44260.

— *Barry Rudy, Treasurer*

Scriptures for November

November 5

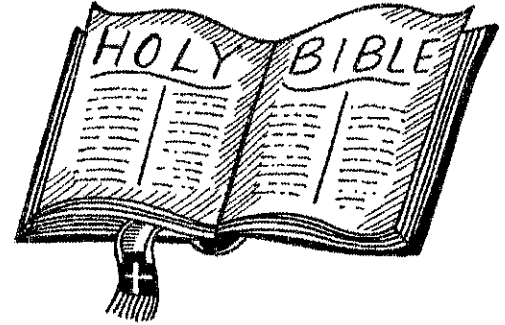
Feast of All Saints - Remembering Those Who Have Gone Home to God
Holy Communion
Prayers for Veteran's Day
Matthew 5: 1-12

November 12

Matthew 25:1-13

November 19

Thanks and Giving Celebration
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Christmastide Church Decorating after worship;
Lunch will be provided — all are welcome to help!



November 26

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

To All Veterans



Whether At Home Or Abroad
Active Duty ~ Reserves ~ Retired
All Americans Say:
THANK YOU!

Thanking Our Veterans

It is so appropriate Veteran's Day falls in the same month as Thanksgiving. Thanks to our veterans we live in freedom in a democracy where each person is to be valued. When you see a Vet, be sure to thank them for their brave service. Thank them not only on Veteran's Day but throughout the year!

Thanks—Giving and Stewardship

This month we are offering the congregation an opportunity to consider prayerfully their stewardship of time, funds, and talents. Here are some things to ponder:

What is meant by “stewardship”?

As followers of Jesus, we acknowledge that all we have comes from God and ultimately belongs to God. Our role is to use what we have been given with wisdom, joy and generosity. In our Baptismal vows we promise to offer our prayer, presence, witness, giving, and service to build the reign of God in the world.

What is tithing?

Tithing is a biblical tradition of giving 1/10th of our resources to God’s work. Tithing is not commanded by the church, but it offers us a touchstone to reflect upon our giving. Many find tithing a powerful spiritual discipline.

What is a pledge?

A pledge is our plan for living into our baptismal promises with our time, funds, talents, and prayers. A pledge is an estimate of our giving for the upcoming year.

Why do we need to pledge?

In order for the church leaders to create a sound budget, they need to have a good estimate of what funds will be available. We all do our personal financial planning with some idea of what resources we will have coming in to pay for our needs. The church leaders need to plan for the Pastor’s salary, staff salaries, mission and ministry, outreach, and care for the church building.

What if I Can’t Meet My Pledge?

Our life circumstances can often change. When new challenges arise, we adjust as needed- this is true in our daily lives and in our discipleship. Even though we know our lives or financial circumstances may change we still make the best plans we can at the time. Pledging is grounded in faith and hope. The church offers compassion when new challenges effect our pledge estimates.

Often we may feel the needs are too great and our resources are too small. The Gospel offers us a new way to look at our resources. Remember the story of the loaves and fish? The disciples saw ONLY 5 loaves and two fishes; but Jesus saw a multitude being fed and being shown the providence of our good God. (Matthew 14:17-21) If we all give a little more, God will multiply our gifts.

What small sacrifices can we make that would allow us to offer the Lord loaves and fish?

This month you will receive an invitation to pledge and a pledge card which we will prayerfully offer at worship on November 19 or by mail. Let us give to the Lord as God has given to us!

Advent and Christmastide: Sing a New Song

This Advent and Christmastide we will explore the biblical invitation to sing a new song unto the Lord. (Psalm 96)

The Wednesday Bible study will read *The Journey* by Adam Hamilton, which helps us understand the coming of Jesus in new ways. If you plan on participating, please let the church office know so a book can be ordered for you. All are welcome!

Advent Week One

We will explore how we can allow God to speak to us in new ways by looking at the Gospel stories of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father and Mary, Jesus' mother. How does Jesus' arrival call our hearts to sing a new song? How does God invite us to listen deeply to the divine song?

Advent Week Two

We will look at the Magnificat, Mary's new song in the Gospel of Luke. How does Jesus' birth call the world to a new song of justice and peace?

Advent Week Three A Drop In Christmas Pageant

We will explore Jesus' coming as a song of welcome for all people. We will have a drop-in Christmas Pageant. The intergenerational pageant will be open to all children who would like to participate - no lines to memorize! Even little ones can be a part of the pageant. Participants are welcome to arrive at 10:10 a.m. to get their simple costumes and the basic instructions. All of us will be part of sharing the sacred story by singing favorite Christmas hymns. Contact Rev. Pam (216-704-0307) with any questions or to be part of the pageant.

Advent Week Four A Celebration in Song

Our music director Fran Snyder and our MUMC Singers are offering us a "new song." Fran has prepared a wonderful program called "I Am Dreaming of a 'Light' Christmas." This program will include festive music and scripture. If you would like to be part of this very special worship experience please leave a message for Fran at the church office. (330-628-1232).

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24th at 6 p.m.

Beautiful, traditional Christmas worship of Word, Song, Blessing of the Children, Communion and "Silent Night" by candlelight.



Advent Bible Study

The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem by Adam Hamilton

In *The Journey*, Adam Hamilton travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. As he did with Jesus' crucifixion in *24 Hours That Changed the World*, Hamilton once again approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness.

Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.

The study will begin on **Wednesday, November 29 at 10:30 a.m.** Please contact the church office if you would like to join in this study.

November Birthdays

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| November 5 | Virginia Reynolds |
| November 6 | Pam Schmidt |
| November 7 | Richard Stefan |
| November 10 | Gerry Hunsucker |
| November 11 | Tom McClary |
| November 24 | Kelli Rice |
| November 26 | Brenda Morris |
| November 29 | Kelly Rick |
| November 30 | Mike Lansinger Zander Straight |



November Anniversaries



| | |
|-------------|---|
| November 21 | John & Christina Lange |
| November 25 | William & Debbie Grubb Kevin & Ashley Thompson |

Mark Your Calendars:
The Hanging of the Greens will take place on Sunday, November 19 following the service. A light lunch will also be served.



MUMC in Mission: Sharing Christ's Love

***Dinner for the Mogadore High football team.** As usual we will be providing a pre-game meal for the team's state playoff run. On **Thursday, November 2** we are hosting the cheerleaders, players, and coaches. A lot of work goes into preparing, serving, and cleaning up for the 70 meals we will be providing. **If you can help in any way: set-up, serving, clean-up, please let Sonia Stockett or Joyce Selzer know. We will be serving at about 7:30 p.m.**

***Holiday food drive for Open M:** We have been asked to provide **200 one-pound boxes of spaghetti.** For uniformity we need standard spaghetti only. **NO rotini, penne, elbow macaroni, etc. or two pound boxes.** We are also asked to provide **100 SINGLE ROLL paper towels.** A collection box is in the overflow area. **Donations MUST be received by Sunday, November 26.** If you prefer to make a cash donation instead of shopping, please do so by **Monday, November 20** to allow time for us to shop before delivery.

***Mountain of Food** Friday, November 17. Meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. to carpool.

Looking Ahead

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

Each year we provide Christmas gifts and groceries for needy families affiliated with Mogadore Schools. Once again, we will be making cash donations to the school and the staff will take care of purchasing, wrapping, and distribution of gifts. We have assured them that we can provide funding for at least 30 gifts for needy students. The typical gift will average about \$30; therefore, we will need about \$900. We need everyone's help to reach the goal. Ideally, each person who comes to church could give \$30. Realistically, that isn't possible. Some can only afford a few dollars; others could sponsor 3-6 gifts.

PLEASE prayerfully consider how much you will be able to give, and then donate accordingly. Believe it or not, one donation can change a person's lifelong perspective.

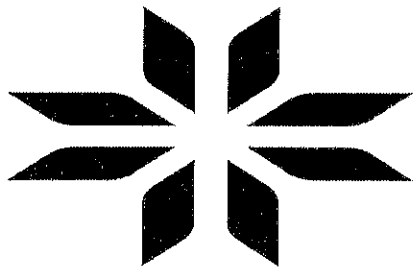
If you want to help in this way, you can send a monetary donation to church. Monetary donations should be in addition to your usual pledge and have the memo line specify **Adopt-a-family** to ensure its proper distribution.

If you choose this option, you may **send your donations as soon as you are ready.** (The earlier the better so that shoppers have ample opportunity to make selections before stock runs out.). If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call Russ Hull at 330-628-1552.

***The Mitten Tree** will be in the church from **Sunday, November 26 until Sunday, January 7** to collect hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks for distribution to needy children in the Mogadore schools and through Ellet Good Neighbors.

***Ministry plans for 2024.** If you have any ideas for a new outreach ministry you would like to see us pursue, or you think we might want to consider changing the scope and focus of what we are already doing, please contact Rev. Pam or Russ Hull. We'd love to hear your thoughts.

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



United Women in Faith

Bring the best tasting pumpkin pie to your Thanksgiving dinner! Our delicious pumpkin pies will only be \$10.00, payment due with order by cash/check or venmo. We will have three dates available for pick up in time for Thanksgiving- all at our Mogadore United Methodist Church:

- Wednesday November 15 5-7pm
- Saturday November 18 12 - 2pm
- Sunday November 19 from 11:30- 1pm.

The money raised with this tasty treat will help our ministry in serving others in need. Women working together helping to make a difference is a rewarding experience we are grateful to be a part of.

The following events will take place:

Rebecca Circle - Lynn Straight will host **Nov 8 6:30pm**

Naomi Circle - Sonia Stockett will host **Nov 20 6pm**

UMF - Presentation of our Thank Offerings and Installation of Officers
Nov 28 6:30pm

“God makes everything happen at the right time. Yet none of us can ever fully understand all he has done, and he puts questions in our minds about the past and the future. I know the best thing we can do is to always enjoy life, because God’s gift to us is the happiness we get from our food and drink and from the work we do. Everything God has done will last forever; nothing he does can ever be changed. God has done all this, so that we will worship him.” Ecclesiastes 3:11-14 Contemporary English Version

Sonia Stockett

A Re-Districting Message from Bishop Tracy S. Malone



“So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation, everything old has passed away; see everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation.” - II Corinthians 5:17-18

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Hear the good news! God is always making all things new! All of this ... new life, new perspectives, new opportunities, new direction, and a new future with hope ... is from God!

We continue to make great progress in implementing the Re-Districting Plan, transitioning from 10 to four districts beginning January 1, 2024. The restructuring of the districts will re-direct more attention to the local church, provide greater stewardship, alignment, and flexibility of resources, generate more opportunity for creative ministries, strengthen the possibility for the revitalization of churches, and increase the efforts of starting fresh expressions and new faith communities.

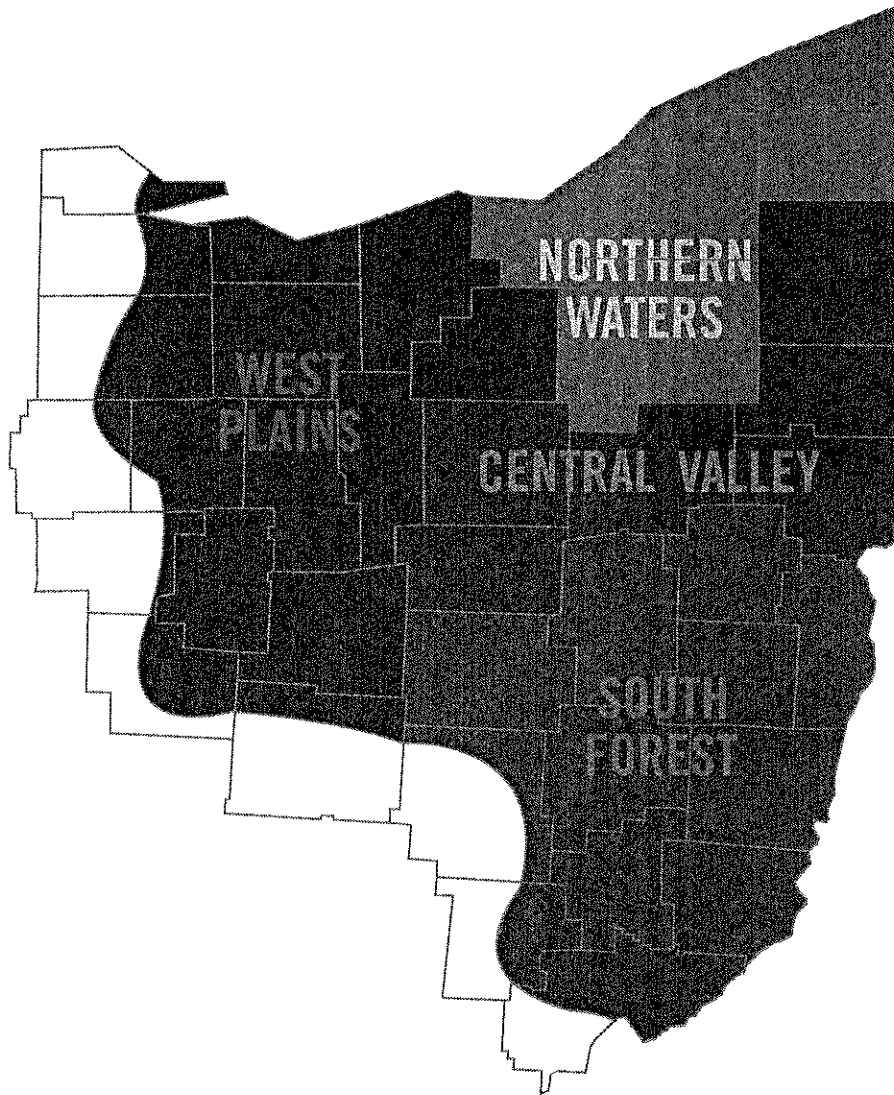
Districts are an integral part of the East Ohio Conference structure and are made up of communities of people, laity and clergy, who work together regionally to share the Good News of the Gospel, to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, and to fulfill our shared mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. Districts facilitate our collective witness and strengthen the connection with each other, with other churches, and with the communities in our mission fields.



East Ohio Conference
The United Methodist Church

DISTRICT NAMES

The re-mapping of the four new districts of the East Ohio Conference was announced September 27 and an invitation was extended that day to submit potential names of the new districts, which were designated A, B, C, and D in the release. Thank you for your suggestions. After prayerful consideration and discussion with Cabinet, the names of the new districts are: West Plains (A), South Forest (B), Central Valley (C), and Northern Waters (D).



*A Re-Districting Message from
Bishop Tracy S. Malone*



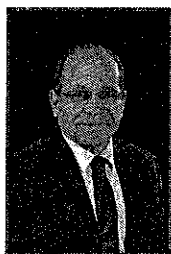
East Ohio Conference

The United Methodist Church

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

District superintendents will serve together in teams to facilitate ministry by working closer with our local churches offering spiritual leadership and oversight, clergy and congregational coaching, strategic ministry assessment and development, shared-learning opportunities, leadership and ministry resources, and district communications.

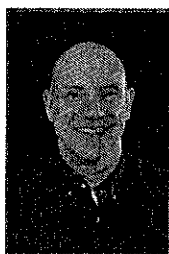
I announce the following appointments of the district superintendents as of January 1, 2024:



Rev. Nestor Nazario
West Plains District
Superintendent



Rev. Donna Van Trees
West Plains District
Superintendent Associate



Rev. Kelly Brown
South Forest District
Superintendent



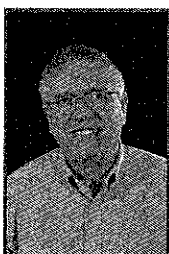
Rev. Laura White
South Forest District
Superintendent



Rev. Edgar Brady
Central Valley District
Superintendent



Rev. Cara Stultz Costello
Central Valley District
Superintendent



Rev. Bruce Hitchcock
Northern Waters District
Superintendent



Rev. Angela Lewis
Northern Waters District
Superintendent

THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE

The task of remapping the districts, naming the districts, and appointing the district superintendents takes us one more step closer to the implementation of the four new districts in January of 2024. We have determined the general vicinity of where the four district offices will be located but there is more work to be done and there are conversations that need to take place before these details are announced. We have begun the work of training district superintendents on the new leadership structure and other training opportunities will be offered for district leadership teams. And the Re-Districting Administrative Team has met and begun the work of identifying all the administrative matters that need to be addressed.

*A Re-Districting Message from
Bishop Tracy S. Malone*



East Ohio Conference
The United Methodist Church

In the next few months, there will be more information forthcoming about district structure, leadership, office locations, staffing, and more. To help shepherd the process and to help shape the structure and leadership teams on the districts, we will continue to work in collaboration with the newly formed Re-Districting Administrative Team, the executive directors, the Cabinet, the Connectional Ministries office, and ministry leaders in the East Ohio Conference.

We have set the weekend of January 27-28, 2024, to be the first gathering in each of the new districts. I will join the district superintendents in each district for a time of worship, connection, and celebration.

Beloved, we are on an adventure together to discover the plan God has for us. Although we are treading on some unknown paths, we are treading with trust and confidence in Christ Jesus who leads us and shows us the way.

I invite us to say YES! as we embrace this new thing that God is doing in the East Ohio Conference. Let us bind our hearts together in prayer and with relentless hope as we prepare for this fresh, new expression of being connected in Christ. Let us continue to keep our eye on our mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” And let us continue to live out our shared vision of equipping and resourcing every pastor, local church, and faith community in the East Ohio Conference as we each grow in our capacities to be disciples, to make disciples, and to mature disciples of Jesus Christ; to be agents of God’s healing, hope and transformation in our communities and throughout the world; and to reach new people, younger people, and a more diverse people.

Your Partner in Ministry,
Bishop Tracy S. Malone

*A Re-Districting Message from
Bishop Tracy S. Malone*



East Ohio Conference
The United Methodist Church

THE PURPOSE OF THE RE-DISTRICTING TASK TEAM

During her Episcopal Address to members of Annual Conference 2023, Bishop Tracy S. Malone shared about having formed a short-term re-districting task team:

“I began conversations with the Cabinet about re-districting long before there ever was a Paragraph 2553. We saw the need and the missional opportunity to re-evaluate the number of districts, district structures, and the role of the superintendents. I formed the team of lay and clergy to assist the Cabinet in studying the number of districts we currently have in light of current church trends and in light of new missional needs and opportunities.”

The team shared its report with Bishop Malone and Cabinet which helped the bishop and the Cabinet to discern its recommendation to the 2023 Annual Conference on reducing the number of districts to better position the East Ohio Conference and increase the capacity for greater discipleship, witness, and mission.

RE-DISTRICTING TASK TEAM MEMBERS

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Matt Darrin (convener) | Earl Kerr |
| Kimberly Arbaugh | Allen Lafferty |
| Paige Boyer | David St. Aubin |
| Kelly Brown | Belva Tibbs |
| Kim Green | Ash Welch |



East Ohio Conference
The United Methodist Church

November 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 10:30 a.m. Bible Study | 2 7:30 p.m. Football team meal | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Daylight Savings Time Ends All Saints Sunday Communion | 6 | 7 Election Day | 8 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Rebecca Circle | 9 | 10 | 11 Veterans Day 9 a.m. Pro Presenter Training |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Portage Patchers 5 to 7 p.m. Pumpkin Pie Pick-Up | 16 | 17 7:30 a.m. Carpool to Open M Mountain of Food | 18 Noon to 2 p.m. Pumpkin Pie Pick-Up |
| 19 Hanging of the Greens following worship; a light lunch will be served 11:30 to 1 p.m. Pumpkin Pie Pick-Up | 20 6 p.m. Naomi Circle | 21 | 22 | 23 Thanksgiving Day Francis Family Building Use | 24 Office Closed | 25 |
| 26 Deadline for items for Open M Holiday Food/Item Drive | 27 | 28 6:30 p.m. UWF Thank Offerings & Installation of Officers | 29 10:30 a.m. Bible Study | 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