



# The Messenger

Mogadore United  
Methodist Church

March 2026

Dear Church Family,

This month we are on the threshold of transformation from winter to spring. March 2026 serves as the spiritual heart of Lent, leading us through the wilderness towards triumphant Palm Sunday. We've already had a few spring-like days and the veil is thinning. Nature's awakening mirrors the soul's journey to Resurrection light. Hold on.

Sincerely,

Pastor Dave



## **“A Place At the Table” Fundraiser**

Some of you will remember when Ethan and Ashleigh Wilson visited our church to share with you their ministry called “Hope Landing.” This ministry disciples the homeless people around the Akron City Hospital area. Even though our church supports them, they will be having a fundraiser that allows people to hear what God is doing through encouraging testimonies in this ministry! The fundraiser will be March 12th, from 6—7:30 pm, at the Middlebury Assembly, 82 S. Arlington St., Akron, Oh, 44306. Tickets are \$30. Reservations for this evening can be placed at [ethan.wilson@reliant.org](mailto:ethan.wilson@reliant.org). Pastor Dave and Julie will be attending this—feel free to join them and sit at their table!

## Treasurer's Report



Balance in General Fund as of January 1, 2026		\$54,724.95
January Offerings	\$11,257.12	
January Disbursements	\$9,678.58	\$1,603.54
<b>Ending Balance January 31, 20256</b>		<b>\$56,303.49</b>

After a disappointing December, our January offerings rebounded with total receipts of \$11,257.12. That's even more surprising considering we didn't have a church service on the 25th due to a snow storm. The January disbursements of \$9,678.58 were a little above normal, but did include plowing and salting charges for the church parking lot, as well as some electrical repairs in the church basement. 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 service, offerings can be mailed to the church, or to my home address of 13523 Iris Ave. NW, Mogadore, OH 44260.

-Barry



### United Women of Faith

On Tuesday, March 24th, UWF will meet at 6:30 p.m. for a business meeting and our **Call to Prayer and Self Denial Service** led by Barb Skye. This annual program is part of UWF's broader mission to turn faith, hope, and love into action. Gifts to A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2026 will support children through low-cost early childhood education, after-school programs, enrichment programs, mental health support, guidance for the transition to adulthood, reunification with family, and more. Your prayers and selfless giving will join the generosity of others who lift their hearts and hands to God to support vulnerable children. Michele Acord will provide refreshments at our meeting and Joyce Hull will offer devotions.

**Naomi Circle** will meet at church on March 16th at 6:00 p.m. Joyce Whitmer is hostess.

**Rebecca Circle** will meet at church on March 11th at 6:30 p.m. Lynn Straight is hostess.

On Saturday, March 21st, some of our women will be traveling to Bay Village UMC for the **Northern Waters Spring District meeting**. District meetings are always very informative and fun! If you'd like to attend, let Lynn or Michele know.

## *March Birthdays*



March 3	Michael Soles
March 4	John Lange
March 8	Riley Straight
March 12	Steve Vargo
March 13	Cheryl Rinehart
March 17	Russ Riggan
March 21	J.J. Lange
March 23	Judy Daniels
March 24	Carol Groh, C. Nerine Gasaway
March 26	Roger Stefan
March 29	Jocelyn McInturff

March 9	Larry and Sharon Fitting
March 17	Richard and Connie Heldenfels
March 31	Steve and Sue Vargo



### **Some new information for Virginia Reynolds...**

Virginia Reynolds has moved to the Brookdale Retirement Community Senior Living, 1119 Perry Dr. NW, Room #136, Canton, Ohio 44708. Her phone number is 330-479-9974. She is doing well and would love for you to visit her any time! Please send any mail to her son and daughter-in-law's address: Craig and Becky Summers, 6517 Amblewood St. NW, Canton, Ohio, 44718.

**Easter Flowers can now be ordered! Each 5" pot is \$10, and there are many plants to choose from. Order forms can be picked up where the bulletins are in the back of the sanctuary. The order deadline is Sunday, March 15th. Let's make our church beautiful for Easter!!**

**We are seeking to fill our church committee position for this new year—2026!**

**We need you to help us make that happen. Please look over the following committees to find one that fits you! Please let Fred Slocum or Pastor Dave know how you will serve Mogadore UMC this year!**

**Executive Committee** (formerly called Administrative Council)

This body oversees both the administrative branch and the ministry branch of our local congregation. Its purpose is to act on behalf of the entire congregation to cast the church vision, set priorities, establish goals, make decisions, and assess the status of both arms of congregational life: business administration and lay ministry. (Comprised of committee chairs, lay leader, lay member of annual conference, PLUS the chairperson who is nominated and approved by the charge conference. Currently 16 members)

**ALTAR GUILD MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide and prepare the sacrament of Communion and maintain the altar in accordance with the calendar of the Christian year.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALTAR GUILD**

Prepare communion as scheduled by the pastor (bread & grape juice) – plus Maundy Thursday. Also clean up after communion, and wash white linen communion covers as necessary.

Change paraments in accordance with the United Methodist Church liturgical calendar and have cleaned as necessary.

Fill altar candles with oil and replace wicks as needed – also replace acolyte lighting tapers as needed.

Maintain inventory of communion cups and candle oil; reorder as needed.

Check weekly flower calendar; advise secretary (for printing in bulletin); remind donors; call Flower Corner for special arrangements.

Provide special altar arrangements for holidays.

Clean and polish brass on candleholders, offertory trays and silver finish on communion trays.

Order and replenish sanctuary offering envelopes, prayer request and joy forms, and attendance pad refills as necessary.

Easter and Christmas: Handle flower orders with Wise Greenhouse. Label plants, arrange in sanctuary, water as needed, and distribute to purchasers and shut-ins. Palm Sunday: Order palms from Flower Corner.

Christmas Eve: Prepare candlelight service and usher candles in plastic cups; clean excess wax and prepare for storage for the following year (reorder as necessary).

Advent: Set up and maintain Advent wreath – clean and prepare for storage.

Set up “makeshift” altar and communion as scheduled for church picnic and worship in park services.

## **SPRC Purpose**

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is the administrative unit in a local church where staff and congregational interests are integrated to focus on the mission of the church. The SPRC has primary responsibility to work with staff so that the mission of the church is realized.

## **SPRC Primary Duties Include**

The committee meets at least quarterly to

- encourage, strengthen, nurture, support and respect the pastor and staff and their families
- promote unity in the church
- confer with and counsel the pastor and staff on matters pertaining to the effectiveness of ministry and relationships with the congregation
- confer with, consult and counsel the pastor and staff on matters pertaining to priorities in the use of gifts, skills and time and priorities for the demands and effectiveness of the mission of the congregation
- provide evaluation for the use of the pastor and staff in an ongoing effective ministry and for identifying continuing educational needs and plans
- develop and approve written job descriptions for the pastor and staff
- recommend to the church council, after consultation with the pastor, the professional and other staff positions needed to carry out the work of the church. The committee and the pastor shall have the authority to hire, contract, evaluate, promote, retire and dismiss non-appointed personnel.
- confer and consult with the district superintendent
- identify and support individuals from the congregation whom God seems to be calling for ordained ministry
- make recommendations regarding compensation, travel, benefits and housing to the Executive Committee

## **Leadership Development and Nominations Committee**

The purpose of this committee is to help identify, recruit, and offer training & support to those individuals who hold crucial positions within congregational life. This committee of 6-9 members plus the pastor and lay leader serves throughout the year to help assist the executive committee in assessing and responding to leadership needs (other than paid staff.)

## **Duties and responsibilities:**

- \*Engage in Biblical and theological reflection on the mission of the church, and the primary task and ministries of the local church.
- \*Focus on mission and ministry as the context for service
  
- \*Get to know members of the congregation and identify (as well as help them to discern) their skills, gifts, knowledge, and level of commitment.
- \*Identify leadership and service opportunities in congregational life
- \*Prepare and maintain job descriptions for leadership positions
- \*Match potential leaders with leadership positions and invite persons to serve in those positions, making sure that these persons represent the makeup of the congregation
- \*Present recommendations to the charge conference
- \*Equip leaders through training and support, including evaluation and personal encouragement

## Finance Committee

### **Purpose & Responsibilities**

Stewardship of financial resources as our priority throughout the year.

To plan, strategize, and implement ways to generate more resources for mission and ministries of our church and beyond.

To find creative ways to turn our congregation into a tithing congregation with an attitude of generosity.

To develop and implement plans to raise sufficient income to meet our budget.

To administer funds received according to instructions from the church council.

To designate at least 2 members (not in the same family) to count the offerings.

The committee shall establish written policies to document the internal controls of our church.

To make provisions for an annual audit of the financial statements of our church and all our organizations and accounts.

The finance committee shall recommend to the church council proper depositories for the church funds.

To insure contributions designated for specific causes and objects shall not be used for any other purpose.

To insure that after the budget is approved, additional appropriations or changes in the budget must be approved by the church council.

The committee shall prepare annually a report to the church council of all designated funds that are separate from the current expense account.

## Outreach Committee

(merging of 2 former committees: evangelism and missions)

The purpose of outreach is to assist the congregation in fulfilling the *great commission* of making disciples, as well as providing varying types and levels of physical, social, and spiritual support to persons not currently affiliated with our church.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

\*Engage in Biblical and theological reflection on the mission of the church and its ministries.

\*Encourage the congregation to share their visions, hopes, and ideas for outreach activities.

\*Identify needs in the community that we might be able to meet (ex: tutoring, latch-key care, etc.)

\*Plan, organize, and oversee periodic and annual events that include people currently unaffiliated with the

MUMC (ex: festival, free meals, concerts, revival services, inter-faith caregivers, etc.)

\*Recruit and manage short-term, task oriented teams (rather than committee members) to fulfill our ministries

(ex: crop walk, festival parade, Good Neighbors, holiday donations, mission saturation weekend, etc.)

\*Explore potential “hands on” mission opportunities

\*Update the congregation about connectional mission work, (ex: One Great Hour of Sharing, Student Sunday, etc.)

\*Design intentional ongoing programs to help “grow the church” by serving the needs of the

## **In-Reach Committee**

**Purpose:** In-Reach is the main arm for our church's ministering to our own. All care, nurturing, support, and fellowship activities done for the benefit of our congregation (except worship, education, and UMW) are **coordinated** by this group, but **accomplished by the entire congregation**.

### **Contact & Visitation Team** (coordinator plus 4-10 other volunteers)

Supplement the Pastor's responsibilities by:

- \*Visiting church shut-ins with the intention of praying for them and offering assistance if needed
- \*Calling or visiting those who are ill and have been admitted to hospitals or nursing facilities to determine how we as a church can assist in meeting their needs; follow-up with them to verify their satisfaction and address any further outstanding concerns they might have.
- \*Maintain adequate communication with the congregation and inform the pastor to verify that he/she has been made aware of the need for pastoral care

### **Welcoming Team** (coordinator plus 3-5 other volunteers)

- \*Seek out and introduce yourself to new visitors or unfamiliar faces. Ask if they mind being introduced to the congregation. If not, plan to introduce them.
- \*Make sure they are given a bulletin and shown both our hymnals. Offer to answer questions and ask them to sign the attendance pad.
- \*Present new visitors with the MUMC coffee mug/welcome packet.
- \*Follow up with a card thanking the visitors for their presence, as well as offering continued support, and looking forward to their joining us again in worship.

### **Hospitality & Fellowship Team** (coordinator plus 8-15 other volunteers)

- \*Plan and co-ordinate special dinners, luncheons, coffee hours, and social events not handled by other groups. This includes purchasing food, enlisting sign-up donations, setting up, serving, and cleanup.
- \*Plan and coordinate our annual church picnic.
- \*Maintain communication with the outreach committee to coordinate events with overlapping purposes

### **Care & Prayer Team** (coordinator plus 5-20 other volunteers)

- \*Coordinate the *MUMC Helping Hands Program* to assist members of the congregation needing help (ex: grocery shopping, prescription pick-up, doctor appointments, etc.)  
(Note that we currently have 17 volunteers; if you know someone in need, tell them about us!)
- \*Send cards to members of the congregation: (ex: get well, sympathy, birthday, thinking of you, etc.)
- \*Prayer chain, which is activated when a request for prayer comes. We **immediately** notify team members and begin personal prayer on behalf of the parties needing prayer.

### **Nursery Care Team** (coordinator plus 3-5 volunteers)

- \*Schedule nursery workers for worship and Sunday School time as needed.
- \*Periodically check supplies like diapers, wipes, tissues, etc.
- \*Make sure all bedding is clean each week
- \*Do periodic sanitizing of toys as needed by use or time

## **Worship Committee Purpose:**

To create a personal and meaningful worship environment and experience, led by pastor and laity, that will enhance the quality of our own spiritual lives, while sharing the joys of Christian community with those the Lord is calling into our midst in the future.

### **Scope of Responsibilities:**

- \* meet 8-12 times per year
- \* recommend creation of ad-hoc sub-committees as needed
- \* Confer with the Pastor as to the nature and content of regularly scheduled services, as well as design and implementation of special services, such as Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, etc.
- \* Coordinate with leaders and contact persons for altar guild, ushers, worship leaders, sound system operators, and the music department to ensure that all areas are staffed and prepared for implementation of a smooth-flowing service.
- \* Make recommendations to the Executive Committee that would require special funding or a major change in the routine operation of our worship experience, such as adding a second Sunday Morning service, changing sanctuary layout to accommodate additional instrumentation, making audio improvements, etc.

### **Worship Committee duties:**

- Assist the Pastor in the discerning of themes, foci, etc. for regular worship and work closely with him in the planning of Sunday worship
- Assist the Choir Director in preparing for special needs in music ministry
- Explore the implementation of new or unfamiliar practices of worship on Sunday morning (i.e. drama, visual arts, reflective readings, contemporary worship, etc.)
- Explore the ministry of specialized worship services outside of Sunday morning (i.e. prayer services, praise services, healing services, etc.)
- Explore the implementation of stronger laity leadership within worship (i.e. regular laity Sundays, laity testimonials, laity sermons, etc.)

## **Trustees Purpose**

The Board of Trustees shall have the supervision, oversight, and care of all real property owned by the local children and all property and equipment acquired directly by the local church or by any similar organization connected to the church as stated in The Book of Discipline paragraph 2533.

### **General Objectives:**

- Oversee, maintain and supervise all local church property.
- Be responsible for use of the church buildings and grounds.
- Maintain adequate insurance coverage on all church property and develop a plan for maintaining and scheduling annual inspections i.e.: fire, elevator, furnace/air conditioning.
- Submit to the committee on finance the annual budget requests for insurance, licensure, bids, property maintenance and improvements and new article and property acquisitions.
- Develop a plan to envision future capital needs in relation to property structure, and usage.
  - Develop a cost and effect model in correlation to this strategy
- Report to the church executive committee on a regular basis.
- Receive and administer all gifts made to the congregation properly.
- Report annually to the charge conference on the state of the church's property, equipment,

## **Christian Education Committee**

### **Christian Education Committee Mission:**

To provide educational programs and experiences that will help students develop and/or deepen a faithful relationship with God and recognize God's call to be open to spiritual growth and learning as disciples of Jesus Christ.

### **Objectives of Christian Education:**

Christian Education happens when people learn the bible, accept God's grace, grow in Christian faith, become a part of a Christian community, and answer God's call to Christian living.

### **Responsibilities include coordination of:**

- Sunday School curriculum for children 3 years – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and Junior and Senior High Youth
- Various adult Sunday School groups
- Junior Church curriculum for children 3 years – 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Vacation Bible School curriculum for children 4 years – 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Recruiting, scheduling and training volunteers for the above

### **Coordination of Special Events:**

- Christmas and Easter programs (in coordination with Junior & Senior High youth)
- Rally Day program (Fall Kick-off)
- Teacher Appreciation and Student Promotion
- New personal bibles for fourth graders and "new" Sunday school students
- Vacation Bible School

## **Memorial Committee**

### **The Primary Task of the Memorial Committee**

To serve Christ and honor of the memory of a loved one by receiving and administering all memorial gifts to the best of our ability.

### **Responsibilities of the Memorial Committee**

The Memorial Committee's task is to coordinate and compile a listing of suggested expenditures, to prioritize the listing and facilitate acknowledgement of such gifts.

To observe, listen for, and seek information about needs within the church that could be provided with memorial fund monies, that would be a good fit for memorial fund money and that would enhance the ministry of Mogadore UMC. To coordinate the purchase of such items.

Work with family members of the person for whom memorial funds have been given if they have a specific request. Such requests will need approval of the committee as they need to complement the mission, ministry, goals and/or facilities of the church.

### **Helpful Skills and Interests of Committee Members**

- Genuine interest in, and concern for people and church property
- Ability to listen and communicate with people of all ages
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.

## *What Exactly Is Lent All About?*

Well, **Ash Wednesday** (Feb. 18th) is the beginning of the **Lent Season**. You may see people with a cross of ashes on their foreheads on this day. These ashes are a reminder of our need for repentance and the reality of our human frailty. The ash marks symbolize sorrow and mourning over sin. The Biblical support for this observation comes from these verses:

*“Then I tuned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.” Daniel 9:3*

*“There was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.” Esther 4:3*

The season of Lent lasts for 40 days, and ends this year on April 4th. Why 40 days? We remember *Jesus’ 40 days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11)*, *Moses spending 40 days on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28)*, *Elijah’s 40-day journey to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8)*, *the 40 days of rain during the Great Flood (Genesis 7:120, and the Israelites’ 40 years of wandering in the desert (Numbers 14:33)*. During this time, we remember these times in the life of Jesus:

**Palm Sunday**—marking the arrival of Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem, when people welcomed Him with palm branches recognizing Him as their King.

**Maundy Thursday**-marking the Last Supper, when Jesus shared a final meal with His disciples and demonstrated humility by washing their feet.

**Good Friday**—a solemn day that commemorates Jesus’ crucifixion and His ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Despite its sorrowful events, it’s called “Good” because of the redemption Jesus secured for us.

**Holy Saturday**—a day of quiet reflection, as we remember Jesus’ time in the tomb and anticipate the joy of what’s to come.

**Easter Sunday**—a day of celebration: Jesus is alive! His resurrection offers us hope, new life, and the promise of eternity with Him.

## *As A Christian, What Should I Do During Lent?*

It is important for those of us who are believers in Christ to remember that the primary purpose of Lent is meant to be a time of repentance. That's not a feeling of shame but an awareness that sin separates us from God and what Christ endured to save us from sin, death, and the devil. Shame has a place, but feeling shame over sin is not the same thing as repentance from sin because "our tempter can take our obedience to God and turn it into a source of pride." Lent should always lead us toward gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter!

**Here are some things we could do to practice Lent in our homes:**

- 1. Name the pressing sin.** Really examine those areas of recurring sin which can be a hurdle to being conformed to God's will.
- 2. Partner with other Christians.** Historically, entire church congregations would support one another during Lent. Devoted friends encourage each other to be specific in their prayers and help one another seek Christ's strength to stay the course. Encourage and pray for one another!
- 3. Your "fast" should feel like a sacrifice, not religious duty.** The fast should never be dangerous to one's health. When you fast, you create a void by giving up a meal during the day, a regular treat, coffee, etc. Consider filling that void by increasing your prayer time, charitable giving, abstaining from social media, doing an act of service to your community, or memorizing scripture.
- 4. Time with God is critical.** Quiet and solitude enable one to listen to the Spirit and discern answers to prayer. Before the noisy corporate rejoicing of Easter Sunday, create opportunities for peaceful contemplation and intimacy with the Father. No matter how prayers are answered at the end of 40 days—no, yes, or wait—time with the Lord is cause for joy, praise, and thanks!



# March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Sunday School, 10 AM</p> <p>Choir Practice, 10-10:45 AM</p> <p>Communion</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Exercise Class @ 10 AM</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Exercise Class @ 10 AM</p> <p>Bible study @ 10:45-12PM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Fred's Discus- sion Group, @ 10 AM</p> <p>Pastor Dave's out—KMA</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Quilting</p> <p>Set your clocks ahead! Daylight Sav- ings Time!</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Sunday School, 10 AM</p> <p>Choir Practice, 10-10:45 AM</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Exercise Class @ 10 AM</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Exercise Class @ 10 AM</p> <p>Bible study @ 10:45-12PM</p> <p>Quilting Rebecca, 6:30</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Fred's Discus- sion Group, @ 10 AM</p> <p>A Place At The Table Fundrais- er, 6-7:30</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 10 AM</p> <p>Choir Practice 10 - 10:45 AM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Exercise Class @ 10 AM</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>NO EXER- CISE CLASS</b></p> <p>Bible study @ 10:45-12:PM</p> <p>Quilting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Fred's Discus- sion Group, @ 10 AM</p>	<p>20</p> <p>MTN Food, 7:30</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 10 AM</p> <p>Choir Practice 10 - 10:45 AM</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Exercise Class @ 10 AM</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>24</p> <p>UWF</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Exercise Class @ 10 AM</p> <p>Bible study @ 10:45-12:PM</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Fred's Discus- sion Group, @ 10 AM</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p><b>Palm Sunday</b></p> <p>Adult Sunday School 10 AM</p> <p>Choir Practice 10 - 10:45 AM</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				



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.

### Church Staff:

**Pastor:** David Haydu

Pastor's Cell: (330) 807-2243

**Administrative Assistant:** Susan Riffin

Church: (330) 628-1232

**Accompanist:** Susan Riffin

**Choir Director:** Noah Whetstone

**Custodian:** David Smith

### March Worship Leaders

**March 1**      **Kathy Lang**

**March 8**      **Dave Cullison**

**March 15**     **Russ Hull**

**March 29**     **Kathy Lang**



Mogadore United Methodist Church  
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Website: [www.mogadoreumc.org](http://www.mogadoreumc.org)

Find us on Facebook!

Church Office Hours:

Mon., Tue., Wed.- 9am to 2 pm

Visitations on Thursdays