



Ohltown United Methodist Church

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Office hours: Monday-Thursday from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
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August 2020 Issue

The Mission of Ohltown United Methodist Church is to make and mature disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

A message from the Pastor

Friends,

Here we are the beginning of August, summer is winding down and dare I say our thoughts are headed towards winter. This has been the strangest summer of my life. Never in my wildest dreams did I think we would be confined to our homes, apart from our loved ones, and worshipping together via YouTube. I could have never imagined holding a private funeral service for my husband nor missing the funeral service for my brother due to Covid-19. I never thought I could wear a face mask and ask for money at a bank and get it! And NEVER, I mean NEVER, did I think I would not be allowed to hug a child!

But some things never change. Children, parents, and teachers are preparing to return back to school in one way or another. The paperwork never ends. I had my annual meeting with the district superintendent. We are preparing for the SPRC to meet and fill out forms and we have our charge conference scheduled for October 21, 2020 at 6:00. We will be holding it differently, but I'll get into that next month. We are still in mission and ministry. We are collecting food for the children at Seaborne Elementary July 27 through August 17. We are still reaching out to the community. Thank you to those who contributed to our gas relief project. I continue to help and pray with people during laundry time. The trustees are still actively taking care of the physical church building. We are still enjoying the beautiful music offered to us not only by Beverly, but by other guest worship leaders. And most importantly God is STILL God, Jesus is STILL Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is still with us.

Now it would be easy for me to quote Hebrew 1: 8 to remind you of this: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.* But instead I would like to share with you Isaiah 43:18-19 ESV
“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”
We are in a wilderness, a desert if you will. We know not what will happen but we know this...God will provide for us. It might not look like what it used to look like...but God will provide. As the children and teachers prepared to go back to school, they too will have to learn a new way. Please pray for them and their safety. Pray that our church will remain healthy and is able to continue God's work. And please be patient as we navigate a new way in this time of distress. Be well my friends, you are not alone. God is with you.

Blessings,

Pastor Teresa

OPPORTUNITIES TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Our deepest sympathies to the Chris B. family following the passing of his girlfriend's mother

Our deepest sympathies to Linda R. and Gary following the passing of Larry

Our deepest sympathies to Frank, Harold, and Sheryl following the passing of Bob

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Marysue Laszacs following her passing

Congratulations to Laura (Lillian's daughter) and Joe, celebrating 40 years of marriage on August 2!

Al D.
Blake H.
Karen and Tom P.

Lorna R.
Margie F.
Pat (lifted by Margie)

Sheryl B.
Yvonne H.



MINERAL RIDGE FOOD PANTRY

In preparation for back-to-school, the Mineral Ridge Pantry is stocking up for the upcoming food distribution. Feel free to bring any contributions to the church during our office hours (Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 1 pm) by Monday, August 17.

Items needed include:

Pasta Sauce

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Cereal

Tuna

canned fruits/veggies

Monetary donations are also appreciated.

Thank you to those who contributed to the Gas Relief ministry! Thank you for your continued generosity to our community.



A special thank you to our special musical guests during July! Thank you, Christy and Truman, for sharing your time and talents with our church family through your voices. It is such a blessing to see and hear more friendly faces enhance our online worship services. Thank you!

Thank you to the Trustees for continuing to care for and maintain our church building and property. We thank you for having the parking lot re-sealed along with new lines being painted.

FACTS AND FIGURES

JULY 5: 86 VIEWS \$660 GIVEN

JULY 12: 86 VIEWS \$3,922 GIVEN

JULY 19: 74 VIEWS \$875 GIVEN

JULY 26: 91 VIEWS \$567 GIVEN

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Administrative Council meets on Wednesday, August 5 at 6 pm in the church sanctuary (Zoom also available).

Nominating Committee meets on Tuesday, August 11 at 11 am via Zoom.

SPRC meets on Tuesday, August 11 at 6 pm at the church (Zoom can be made available).

SPRC Consultation with the District Superintendent will be in our pavilion on **Wednesday, September 16 at 8 pm.**

If you would like to serve on any committees, please let the church office know! The Nominating Committee would be happy to place volunteers where their gifts contribute well to the function of our church. Thank you for considering how you can make a difference in our community and our church family with your service!

What we're working on:

The church is looking to purchasing an FM transmitter. The transmitter can easily be used with your car radio to enjoy a condensed service from Pastor Teresa. This will possibly be a once a month time for communion to-go. Due to the shape of our parking lot, we are rather limited in what we are able to offer, but we are committed to trying new ways to connect as a congregation safely.

Our CD recordings of the church service audio were a useful ministry to those who wanted to listen but could not attend. We would like to expand this ministry! With the blessing of a camera and an updated computer in the church office, we are working to be able to provide an option for a DVD of the worship service. If you or someone you know in our church family does not have internet access and would like to see the worship services, please call the church office (330-652-6614) to be placed on our list for the DVD outreach.

Looking ahead to autumn, we are thinking of ways to offer a Fall Harvest to-go Party for the community. It will be more than just candy! Have an idea? Let the church office know!

Our new office computer has arrived! On July 30, the computer was put in place and is working with amazing efficiency. Thank you to the donors who made the purchase possible! Upgrading our technology means better connection capabilities with the community and our church family in this digital age. Along with the need to invest in the computer itself, the time has come to better the church's internet connection. The location of the church required that the internet be received through a wifi hot-spot. This is similar to a device a family could take on vacation to have extra internet access for phones and smaller devices. For a church office the load and speed restrictions that a wifi hot spot offers did work for basic needs, but had many challenges. It is impossible to load large files, such as a worship service, online. As a result, Beverly has to take the files elsewhere to be uploaded to our website, YouTube, and Facebook. We investigated a satellite internet provider, but found that the greater cost would not return any better service or speed. Finally, we were connected to an Armstrong representative through Team Office who was able to give us a hopeful option.

Thanks to Pastor Teresa and Jeff for meeting with Armstrong, we now have a plan underway. There will be a trench dug to a neighboring pole to allow us access to a hard-wired internet connection. Armstrong will lay the wire and conduit to the church at no charge provided we have the trench prepared. This is far more economical than aerial lines and the service will be far better than our current provider for about the same monthly cost. With the updated computer and internet service, we will be able to do all the work our church office now requires in the actual church office with no work needing to be done off-site!

Let's celebrate with those
who have
special days this month!

August Anniversaries

- 1 Matt & Julie Cluse
 - 6 Michael & Laura Fisher
 - 7 Bob & Trudee Davis
 - 10 Tom & Karen Purnell
 - 17 Patrick & Margie Ford
-

August Birthdays

- 2 Valerie Joseph, Nonnie Woodford
 - 3 Jeff McCracken, Tom Purnell
 - 7 AnnaMae Kalasky, Corey Shofroth
 - 8 Caleb Knipp
 - 10 Marcy Sabol
 - 18 Robert Baldwin, Diane Hofus
 - 19 Jessica Goist
 - 22 Josh Robinson
 - 26 Karen Purnell
 - 31 Nancy Welch
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Join us for worship online!
OhltownUMC.com
Find us on our Facebook page
and on our YouTube channel



THE BRIDGE
Ohltown United Methodist Church
2001 Ohltown Road
Mineral Ridge, Ohio 44440
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Teresa C. Smolka, Pastor
Nancy Goddard, Custodian
Beverly Kalasky, Secretary
Truman Littler, Choir Director