

Ohltown U.M.C.

We believe in making disciples for Jesus Christ for the
Transformation of the World.



December 2021

The Bridge

My dear friends,

As I sit here writing this Christmas newsletter, we have not yet celebrated Thanksgiving. I am amazed as I travel to my new home at the number of Christmas decorations that are not only up... but lit. Let's face it, when you live on a dead-end road you don't see many Christmas decorations. Living in a neighborhood is brand new to me. I have always lived either in the country, or hidden in the woods of a small community. Not that Boardman is a booming metropolis... but it is more of a city than I am used to. But I am embracing my new home. The deer that once graced my back yard have been replaced by BLACK squirrels, again not what I'm used to. I used to blow the leaves into the woods next to my house. Now I am bagging them and putting them to the curb. Change happens. Sometimes out of necessity, and sometime because of a choice.

This year we made the choice to keep our Christmas Eve service at 2:00 p.m. We did that last year because of Covid and holding an outdoor service was better during the day. This year at the time it was necessary to make the decision to hold the service we opted to stay with the 2:00 p.m. time for several reasons. If covid rears its ugly head we wanted to make sure we could meet outside. It is also easier for our senior members to drive during daylight hours. While it is different, I am asking that you embrace the change.

One thing has not changed: We will be celebrating the birth of our Lord and savior. God came in the form of a human so that He could have a relationship with us. It doesn't matter what time of day we welcome Jesus. The point is to welcome Jesus.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." – Matthew 1:21

Blessings,

Pastor Teresa

Blessed beyond measure

(A letter we received this week)

Picture this:

It's mid-November and I have \$26 left in my food budget. I'd love to share a meal for Thanksgiving, so I'm trying to figure out if I'll have any left over from my electric bill budget this month to account for that. It'll be tight. Again. Then, I hop in the car to go to an appointment only to find the battery is out of charge. Sigh. . . where am I going to find the money for a battery in my tight budget?

While I'm waiting to get my car a jump start, I go to the mailbox. God has a funny way of timing blessings. I find an anonymous letter with gift cards in it. One to Aldi and one to Walmart. My heart is so full that it spills out of my eyes! Not only did someone bless me with grocery money, they also blessed me with the help I needed to get a battery for my car! From "How am I going to afford a battery right now?" to having a gift card in my hand to do so was only a walk of faith to the mailbox. I didn't know the blessing was waiting for me, but God knew.

God whispered to someone who wishes to remain anonymous. Anonymous: thank you. God's timing could not have been more perfect and I'm so grateful that you were willing to carry out God's plan. **Just Wow.**



Hanging of the Greens



Thank you to everyone that stayed to help decorate our Sanctuary. Our Sanctuary looks beautiful!



Thank you

This year we had the opportunity to share in a mission project with the Boardman United Methodist Church and the Salvation Army. Several families donated 2 hours of time to be bell ringers at the shops at the park to help raise money for the Salvation Army. Thank you to those that volunteered.

Thank you to Ohtown UMC from Robin Bowers. Robin thanks you for all the prayers and cards. Her surgery went well, and her recovery is progressing.

Reminder: We will be taking down our beautiful Christmas decorations on January 2 after worship service. Any help in taking them down will be greatly appreciated.

Blue Christmas Service

Pastor Teresa and Rev. Jerry Krueger will be holding a Blue Christmas Service on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at Boardman U.M.C. 6809 Market St, Youngstown, OH 44512 at 6:30 p.m. We are offering "Blue Christmas" services to hold a space for often unwelcome feelings; feelings of loss and loneliness. Come to a service of wholeness and healing to help you deal with your feeling of loss.

New Banners

The sanctuary has new Fall Banners. They were dedicated on All Saints Sunday and were given in Memory of Joseph Smolka. The Christmas Banners are given in Memory of Wanda Armstrong, and the Nativity banners are given to the Glory of God by the Emrich family. Thank you to all for adding beauty to our sanctuary.

The Protestant Family Service has started their Christmas Adopt-A-Family Program and are collecting Gift Cards (any amounts) from local businesses (dollar stores, gas cards, local pizza shops). At this time, they have a dozen families in need. These are families with wheelchair bound and disabled children that cannot get out easily to shop. They are also giving grocery store food cards in lieu of bags of food and would appreciate them in increments of \$25. If you wish to donate to this, please have gift cards in by Sunday, December 12, to the Missions Committee.

Food Pantry Collection



Once again, this year we will be collecting money to provide hams for Christmas for families in need. The cost is \$20.00. We have been asked to provide 10 hams. If you can help with one ham or even a portion of the cost, please see Joan Gearhart. Money needs to be to the Mineral Ridge Parish association no later than December 12.

Blessing of the Toys

On Sunday, December 26 we will have a Blessing of the Toys. Children are invited to bring a special toy, perhaps a new Christmas gift, and bring it to be blessed by Rev. Jerry and Pastor Teresa Krueger. We ask children to bring a "Quiet" toy so as not to disrupt the rest of the service.



DECEMBER 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Quilters 10 AM – 2 PM	2	3	4
5 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Worship Service 9:30 AM	6 UMW Christmas Dinner @ Ala Carte 6:30 PM	7 Bible Study 11 AM	8 Quilters 10 AM – 2 PM	9	10	11
12 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Worship Service 9:30 AM	13	14 Bible Study 11 AM	15 Quilters 10 AM – 2 PM	16	17	18 Chili Sale 10 AM – Noon or sold out
19 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Worship Service 9:30 AM	20	21 Blue Christmas Service at Boardman UMC 6:30 PM First Day of Winter ❄️❄️	22 Quilters 10 AM – 2 PM	23	24 Christmas Eve Service - 2:00 PM	25  Christmas Day
26 Hymn Sing Blessing of the Toys 9:30 AM	27	28	29 Quilters 10 AM – 2 PM	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 <i>January</i>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Online Views</u>	<u>Gifts</u>
Nov. 7	61	46	\$2975.00
Nov. 14	47	39	\$1430.00
Nov. 21	53	45	\$2250.00
Nov. 28	45	42	\$ 890.00



This month's Chili Sale is on Saturday, Dec. 18th. If you can help with any part of this, please contact Kevin Hood.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Jerry & Jan's family in the passing of Jan's brother.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the Engler family in the passing of Gloria.

Congratulations to Daryle for the birth of his 5th Great Grandchild – Lilly Rae Rose

Happy Birthday!

- 2 Julie Cluse & Don Phillips
- 3 Pat Baird & Jon Carlson
- 4 Paul Colla
- 5 Lauren Gearhart
- 13 Robin Baldwin & Shawn Cottrell
- 14 Connie Darby & Rick Rose
- 16 Mike Schill
- 17 Chris Bish
- 18 Kary Shively
- 20 Connor Keller & Jacob Robinson
- 22 Lois Ann Phillips
- 23 Mike Waldern
- 28 Meila Hofus, David Mellott, & Chris Plant
- 29 Adelynn Knipp
- 31 Sherry Rose

Happy Anniversary!

- 8 Guy & Kary Shively
- 21 John & Mary Jane Gehring
- 24 Gregory & Rebeca Hood

December Liturgist Schedule

- 5 Ron Fleet 12 Linda Hahn
- 19 Randy Emrich 24 Cheryl Emrich
- 26 Becky Eckels Hood

Thank you from Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley for the generous donation of the beautiful blankets that the ladies of our church made and donated to the children who are in the hospital.

Candy Land

Vienna United Methodist Church, 4265 Warren-Sharon Road, Vienna, OH is holding a Life Size Candyland Game and photo booth. Hours are:

- Fri., Dec 10 ~~~~~ 2:30 – 8:30pm
- Sat., Dec. 11 ~~~~~ 11:00am – 7:00pm
- Sun., Dec. 12 ~~~~~ noon – 6:00pm

It is a free event with snacks and goodies provided for all families and all ages.



Sharing with you
the Glory, the
Wonder, the
Miracle of this
Holy Season.
Have a Blessed
Christmas and
New Year.

THE BRIDGE
Ohltown United Methodist Church
2001 Ohltown Road
Mineral Ridge, OH 44440
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Teresa C. Krueger, Pastor
Nancy Goddard, Custodian
Betty Harness, Secretary



Beloved,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. “God Came Near” is the Advent study we are doing this year. It allows us to remember that it all happened in a moment. He came not as a flash of light or as an unapproachable conqueror, but as one whose first cries were heard by a peasant girl and a sleepy carpenter. The hands that held him were not manicured, but callused and dirty. No silk. No ivory. No hype. No party. No hoopla. God had come near ... for you. Christmas is not just a date on the calendar. It is the celebration of the event that set Heaven to singing, an event that gave the stars of the night sky a new brilliance, an event that made God personal to all mankind. On that first Christmas night God became personal in Bethlehem. *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only son”* (John 1:14, NIV) I pray you experience the love of Christmas.

The finance committee asks as you pray about your Christmas offering that you consider giving to one or more of the following: The General Fund, which supports the general operation expenses of the church, The Trustees, who support the physical building, or The Mission Fund which helps support those locally in need.

Christmas is a special time at Ohltown. I pray you can attend our Christmas Eve service Friday, December 24. at **2:00 p.m.** Join us as Rev. Jerry Krueger and I lead worship. We will share in a time of Communion, fellowship, carols, and scripture as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Then come again on Sunday, December 26 at 9:30 a.m. for a church wide Hymn Sing, a blessing of the toys and the opportunity to share the blessing of Christmas with our church family.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men”

Merry Christmas and a very Blessed New Year

Pastor Teresa