

Ohltown United Methodist Church

2001 Ohltown Road, Mineral Ridge, Ohio 44440 ~ Phone: 330-652-6614

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

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The Bridge



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

February 2019 Issue

Dear Friends,

Many of us think of February as the month of love. But the American Heart Association dubs this: "American Heart Month". It serves to remind us to make healthy choices and manage our health conditions. I direct your attention to an article written by Lois Ann Phillips, our resident nurse here at Ohltown, that addresses the A-typical warning signs of heart attacks and heart disease. And while I am all for heart health, I would like to talk to you about a different heart health. I would like to borrow a quote from the United Methodist *Rethink Church* .org website:

IT ALL BEGINS WITH OPEN HEARTS.

"When we open our hearts to live a life inspired by God's love, it can change the world. It compels us to open our doors to those who are hungry, sick, or forgotten. It leads us to reach out to those who are struggling. It drives us to stand together for justice and inclusion. When we live with open hearts, church can happen anywhere."

Is your heart open? Are you willing to take a chance and try something different? We are a missional church. We do wonderful outreach and ministry. But what if we are asked to change how we do that ministry? Maybe we should rethink hosting our Easter Egg hunt at an off-site location. After all, we are set back from the main street and there are people who just have a hard time finding us. What if our Trunk or Treat was held at a parking lot on Route 46 to include more children? What if our Veterans picnic was held at the American Legion or the VFW? Sure, it might be more inconvenient for us... but isn't the point of doing mission to reach other people?

What if we try something new and radical? In the coming weeks you will find church invitational cards in the back of the sanctuary. It will have information about the church on one side and on the other it will read; "No strings attached, just a little something to show God loves you." The idea is to hand these cards out to all of you who then use your creativity and resources to bless others. Maybe you want to stick a card and \$20 bill at a gas station pump or leave a card with a gift card in the library books to surprise someone. How about a gift certificate and a card on the self at the grocery store or a gift card to Starbucks with a card at the locker of the gym? The possibilities are endless.

Mark 16:15 says: "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Maybe this card and your gift can be your voice.

Pastor Teresa

Opportunities to Worship

February 3

Holy Communion

4th Sunday after Epiphany

"O come to the altar. The Father's arms are open wide. Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ" Words by Elevation Worship...Come to the table of the Lord.

February 10

Boy Scout Sunday & Winter Fellowship

Join us as we celebrate the Scouting movement. Stay for a "pot luck" brunch following worship. Bring your favorite dish to share.

February 17

6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 24

7th Sunday after Epiphany

March 3

Transfiguration Sunday

Today we celebrate the revelation of Christ's glory "before the passion" so that we may "be strengthened to bear our cross and be changed into his likeness."

A Way Forward

Here we are at the threshold of a New Year and new things are about to take place in the United Methodist Church. The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. On February 23-26 a special session of General Conference will be held. Here is the summary about the sketches of the models presented to the bishops:

- One Church Plan (recommended by the Council of Bishops)

The One Church Plan provides a generous unity that gives conferences, churches, and pastors the flexibility to uniquely reach their missional context without disbanding the connectional nature of the United Methodist Church. It is based on the belief that we can be a church with a large enough tent for people to disagree about human sexuality and yet remain together as the United Methodist Church. It allows us to affirm that our unity and mission are more important than our disagreements. In the One Church Plan, no annual conferences, bishops, congregations, or pastors are compelled to act contrary to their convictions. The plan maintains the leadership structure of the United Methodist Church, including the Council of Bishops, the General Conference, and the annual conferences as one body and one Church. It offers greater freedom to many who desire change but do not want to violate the Book of Discipline. Voting is kept to a minimum except where it is helpful. There is no mandate that requires local churches, conferences, or pastors to participate in a vote that divides, segments, or separates.

- Connectional Conference Plan

This plan creates an entirely different structure for the United Methodist Church. This plan maintains a General Conference structure that holds the unified core ... all those things the Church can agree on, (i.e. the Articles of Religion, Apostle's Creed, Nicene Creed, Wesley's sermons, etc.) and maintains the Council of Bishops. Underneath this General Conference there would be three Connectional Conferences (branches) according to theological perspectives: Progressive, Centrist, and Traditional. Currently the church is structured geographically. Each connectional conference would share a book of discipline for the General Conference but each connectional conference would begin to develop its own book of discipline. This plan is the most complex. It is the only plan that requires constitutional amendments in order to be fulfilled, and it will require a long implementation process.

- Traditional Plan

This plan affirms the current language about human sexuality in the Book of Discipline and seeks to strengthen enforcement for violations of church law.

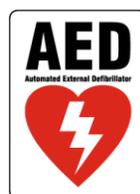
Friends, no matter what happens at that session we will still have God's mission to follow. We will still be making and maturing disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We will still be preaching and teaching God's word. No matter what happens...we are still Christians! *I invite you to join me in prayer for those involved in this process, for the United Methodist Church, and for God's plan.*



Pastor Teresa

Pastor Teresa will be in Nashville following worship on February 10 until Mid-day February 19. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Beverly at church (Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 1 pm at 330-652-6614) or home (330-206-6517) and she will contact Rev. Jeffery Harrison of West Austintown to attend to your spiritual needs.

The Quilters are selling USA made brooms for \$9 and dust brooms for \$4. See Joan, Marcy, or Adria to get yours.



An AED has been purchased and installed near Pastor Teresa's office. Let Pastor Teresa know if you would like to be included in the training offered by the Austintown Fire Department. Time and date of training yet to be determined.

Dear Ohltown Friends,

A few months ago I had an experience that I would like to share. First, let me say that I have always considered myself to be fairly healthy. No chronic diseases such as diabetes, kidney disease, lung problems, blood clots and the like. I do have osteoarthritis and have had both knees replaced, and have had some fractures due to falls. I am also a non smoker.

Last October I began to have some brief, sudden episodes of shortness of breath, not due to exercise and relieved by sitting down for a few minutes, so I ignored them as most women would do. These continued and became more frequent. I also felt lightheaded and had an irregular pulse. I finally went to the doctor who ordered a 2D echogram and stress test which I had November 8 and was sent to a cardiologist who scheduled me for a heart catheterization December 5. All this was surprising to me since I had no history of heart trouble and had none of the symptoms they talk about such as pain in my chest, arm, or jaw. I was even more surprised when I found out that my LAD (left anterior descending) coronary artery was 99% blocked. This artery is also known as the "widow maker". Fortunately, the doctor was able to open it by inserting two stents through the catheter into the artery.

I firmly believe that God or an angel of God was looking over me during those eight or ten weeks when I was running around doing what I always do, not knowing I had a serious heart problem. This is written for informational purposes only, not as a diagnostic tool, that shortness of breath COULD possibly be an early symptom of heart trouble. Don't ignore it!!

Sincerely, Lois Ann Phillips

Ash Wednesday

Because it is the first day of Lent, many Christians, on Ash Wednesday, often begin marking a Lenten calendar, praying a Lenten daily devotional, and abstaining from a luxury that they will not partake in until Easter Sunday arrives. We will join with our brothers and sisters in faith at Smith Corners UMC at 7:00 p.m. on March 6 to mark the 46th day before Easter with prayer, song, scripture, ashes, and communion. Rev. Jeffery Harrison will deliver the message.



Our church celebrated the birth of our Savior in grand style. The sanctuary was lovely, flocked with red and green. I would like to thank all of those who took the time to decorate our church and then take those decorations down after the Holidays were over. You are appreciated more than you know.

Did you notice we now have new stone on the parking area next to the new shed? Thank you to Jeff McCracken for making this happen.

Thank you to the trustees for making sure the snow was cleared from the parking lot and walkways! It was no easy task and is very much appreciated.

Dear Friends,

Your kindness and generosity continues to amaze me! Thank you so much for thinking of us this Christmas. We are so blessed to serve with such a loving congregation. In time the gift will be gone but the memory of your thoughtfulness will last a lifetime!

Thank you again,
Joe and Pastor Teresa

Dear Ohltown UMC Family,

Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and generosity this Christmas season. May you be blessed for having blessed me and my family!

~Beverly



Lenten Bible Study

In March we will begin our Lenten Study "A Case for Easter." How credible is the evidence for, and against, the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Focusing his award-winning skills as a legal journalist on history's most compelling enigma, Lee Strobel retraces the startling findings that led him from atheism to belief in the biblical New Testament story. Join us on Tuesday mornings starting March 12 at 11:00 or evening at 6:00 as we look at his evidence. The cost of the book for this study is \$3.00.

Opportunities to Pray for One Another



Prayer Concerns

Alma (lifted by Sheryl Baringer)	Heike (lifted by Robin Bowers)	Melanie (lifted by Christy)
Blake Hood	Jim (lifted by Carolyn Lorent)	Penny (by Linda, Mary Jane, & Carolyn)
Bud Simkins	Kara (lifted by Sandi)	Rolland (lifted by Dorothy Mellott)
Chrissy Sigley	Lauretta Fleet	Ron & Gail (by Lillian & Howard)
Chrystal (lifted by Chick)	Linda Reichard	Sharri (lifted by Sandi)
Don (lifted by Linda Hahn)	LuAnn Allen	Tom (lifted by Kary)
Grant (lifted by Beverly)	Marcella (lifted by Linda W.)	Tony (lifted by Kevin)
Hannah (lifted by Linda Hahn)	Mary Beth (lifted by Sarah Plant)	Wanda Armstrong
Harold Baringer		Zack (lifted by Lorna)

Condolences

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Rev. Jim Humphrey following his passing

Our deepest sympathies to Jerry Kloc and family following the passing of his brother

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Viola Cast following her passing

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Harvey Hood following his passing

Joys

Congratulations to Lorna Ramsey upon the arrival of her great granddaughter, Rowan, born January 4 weighing 9 lbs.

Congratulations to Will and Sheila Freed-Pastor upon the arrival of their daughter, Rachel Marilynne, born December 5 weighing 6 lbs. 5 oz.

Keep these folks in your prayers as they celebrate special days this month:

February Birthdays

1	Cameron Gearhart
3	Justin Goist, Mia Ramirez
5	Dorothy Mellott
6	Joey Baird III
7	Andy Welch
8	Lori Hood
10	Tyler Gray
12	Violetta Shofroth
14	John Gehring, Betty Ann Genetta
16	Linda Whittlesey
18	Debbie Fisher
19	Seth Welch
21	Tony Combis
22	Dan Freed-Pastor, Debra Bogniard
23	Bud Simkins
24	Steven Sigley, Jr., Don Welliver

February Anniversaries

6	Ron & Pat Baird
18	Harold & Sheryl Baringer
28	Gene & Dorothy Mellott

Keep our worship leaders for the month in your prayers:

Worship Leaders for February

		<i>Liturgists</i>	<i>Greeters</i>
Feb	3	Tom Hoover	Guy & Kary Shively
Feb	10	Cheryl Emrich	Boy Scouts
Feb	17	Christy Sheldon	Don Phillips & Marilyn Rhinehart
Feb	24	Lois Ann Phillips	Daryle & Yvonne Hornberger



February 2019

Sunday Worship 9:30 am / Sunday School 11:00 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor Jeff of West Austintown UMC will be available for pastoral emergency while Pastor Teresa is away. If you need to get in touch, contact Beverly and she will connect you. Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 1 pm at 330-652-6614 and all other hours at 330-206-6517.					1	2
3 Communion	4	5	6 Quilters 10 am Choir Rehearsal 6	7	8	9 Chili Sale 10 am – noon or sold out
10 Boy Scout Sunday Winter Fellowship following worship	11 Pastor Teresa out of town	12	13 Quilters 10 am Choir Rehearsal 6 Girl Scouts	14	15	16
17	18 Pastor Teresa out of town	19 Humility House worship 10 am	20 Quilters 10 am Pastor Teresa at DCOM 8:30 – 3:30 Choir Rehearsal 6	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23 Special Session of the UMC General Conference through Feb. 26
24	25	26	27 Quilters 10 am Choir Rehearsal 6 Girl Scouts	28 Reuben orders due	<i>Looking ahead:</i> Easter flower order forms will be available soon. The deadline to order is Sunday, March 10.	

Reubens



to go



Saturday, March 16, 2019

11 am - 12:30 pm

Each meal includes: a Reuben sandwich, potato salad, and a pickle spear, with Thousand Island dressing on the side.

Deadline for *prepaid orders* is February 28.

Please give orders to Kevin Hood or to the church office.

Make checks payable to *Ohltown UMC*.

Meals \$8.00 each

_____ Quantity x \$8.00 = \$ _____

Additional Sandwiches \$6.00 each

_____ Quantity x \$6.00 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed with Order \$ _____

Name _____

Phone Number _____

The Ohltown UMC Youth Group will also have quarts of potato soup for sale.

Soup will be \$6 per quart; no pre-orders necessary.



The UMW will also have pies available for \$10.

Ohltown United Methodist Church

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Join us for Easter Worship on April 21st at 7 am and 9:30 am

Free breakfast between services!

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