

The Bridge

Ohltown United Methodist Church



Winter
January 2026

A NEW YEAR

What is the function and the purpose of the church and for this family of faith? I have read that the church is the only institution that exists for people who do not belong to it. This is true in part because Ohltown does well in taking care of its own. Yet, there are times I sense folks "slipping through the cracks." Sometimes I don't always hear or know what is going on with some folks, and they are hesitant to say anything.

It has been my goal to have the door to the office and the phone on my desk accessible and open to everyone.

Are you and I reaching out to each other and to the world? What is our relationship with God, ourselves, and the world? Spend some time in 2026 considering who God is to you.

Contact Us

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01/02

Caroling 2025



Scripture Insight

Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" ..." Come and see."

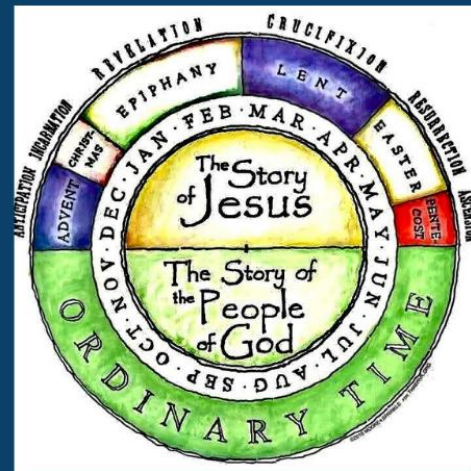
John 1:38-39

Encouragements

The meme above reminds me of my first job, where I had an actual paycheck. I was 15 and the only one who knew how to drive a stick shift. I enjoyed that summer job and have fond memories. However, I keep the past there and remember it fondly, while I ask Christ to continue transforming me, and as I pray, Christ will continue transforming you into what God intended us all to be. Like Jesus It reminds me of the Scripture reference in John. What do you seek? In seeking, we must look, and in looking, we discover who Jesus was, is, and forever will be. Keep striving to find Jesus in each other and in ourselves.

Pastor Jim Spatholt

The Christian Year



The Christian year is displayed above. This is why the lectern paraments are changed, and different events in the life of the church are established. This is also how the established liturgy is marked in time.

Thursday, January 1 – The Office will be closed in celebration of New Year's Day
Saturday, January 10 – Chili Sale
Wednesday, January 14 – Trustees Meeting at 6:30 PM
Sunday, January 18 – Finance Meeting following worship (Audit to be discussed)

Come help us to
**UN-DECORATE
THE CHURCH**
take down & pack away decor

**SUNDAY
JANUARY 4
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**



It's time for chili!!

Ohltown UMC's Chili Sale is Saturday, **January 10** beginning at 10 AM. The cost is \$7 per quart. If you are making chili, please have it to the church on Thursday, January 8th from 9AM – 1PM. If you would like to help either pack the chili on Friday or help with the sale on Saturday, please contact Kevin Hood.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

There will be no meeting in the month of January

*Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the
desires of your heart.*

Psalm 37:4

Upcoming Events

February 6, 7	Youth Y-Night
February 10	Missions Meeting – 6:00 PM
February 14	Chili Sale at 10:00 AM (last one for the season)
February 15	Pot Luck following worship
February 18	Ash Wednesday – Open Sanctuary 6AM – 1PM



To My Ohltown Family:

I'm sending a "special thanks" to all the folks at Ohltown for the lovely Christmas gifts that the carolers brought to me. And, of course, I extremely enjoyed the singing of the carols. You were wonderful!!

I also very much enjoy and appreciate the visits from Pastor Jim. Thank you so much!

Happy New Year & God Bless you all,

Janet Welliver

Ohltown Church Family,

Thanks to everyone for the prayers for Dave during his illness. The Prayers were greatly appreciated and beneficial as Dave is doing great! It is so nice to have the support from everyone.

Laurie Stewart & David Eggleston

Thank You!!

Wow! – What a card! I can't make it to church, but to see all those signatures brings us all together. It really means something to me when I all see all those names. Have a nice holiday and a perfect New Year. God Bless All,

Betty Ann Genetta

My Church Family,

Thank you so much for the generous gift – I truly appreciate it. I cannot ask for a better "church family" than all of you. You certainly have made my coming into work a pleasure and I thank you for that also. I pray that we all have a blessed new year.

Blessings to you all, *Betty Harness*

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation Board of Trustees has unanimously selected the Rev. Cara Stultz Costello as its next president and CEO, effective January 1, 2026. She will be the first female president in the 60-year history of the Foundation. There will be a celebration/good-by for Rev. Costello on January 17 at 11:00 AM at Faith UMC in N. Canton.

Rev. Dan Bryant will serve as interim superintendent of the Central Valley District from January 1 until June 30, 2026.

JANUARY

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 DECEMBER	29	30	31	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3
4 Worship Service 9:30 AM Taking down the Christmas Decorations No Wesley Class	5	6	7	8 Bible Study 10:00 AM	9	10 Chili Sale 10:00 AM
11 Worship Service 9:30 AM Wesley Class	12	13	14 Trustees Meeting 6:30 PM	15 Bible Study 10:00 AM	16	17
18 Worship Service 9:30 AM Wesley Class Finance Meeting Following worship	19	20	21	22 Bible Study 10:00 AM	23	24
25 Worship Service 9:30 AM Wesley Class	26	27	28	29 Bible Study 10:00 AM	30	31

Our sincere condolences go out to the Sloat family in the passing of Frank.

January Birthdays

- 7 Lolla Swain
- 9 Cheryl Emrich, Timmy Harness, Jr
- 16 Nancy Goddard
- 17 Sara Carlson
- 26 Virginia Cluse
- 27 Ron Fleet

January Anniversaries

- 23 Calvin & Pam Beck

January Liturgists

- 4 Linda Hahn
- 11 Carolyn Lorent
- 18 Karen Kozicki
- 25 Ron Fleet

January Greeters

- 4 Robin Baldwin/Chris Sigley
- 11 Bill & Linda Hahn
- 18 Guy & Kary Shively
- 25 Dave & Cathy Mellott

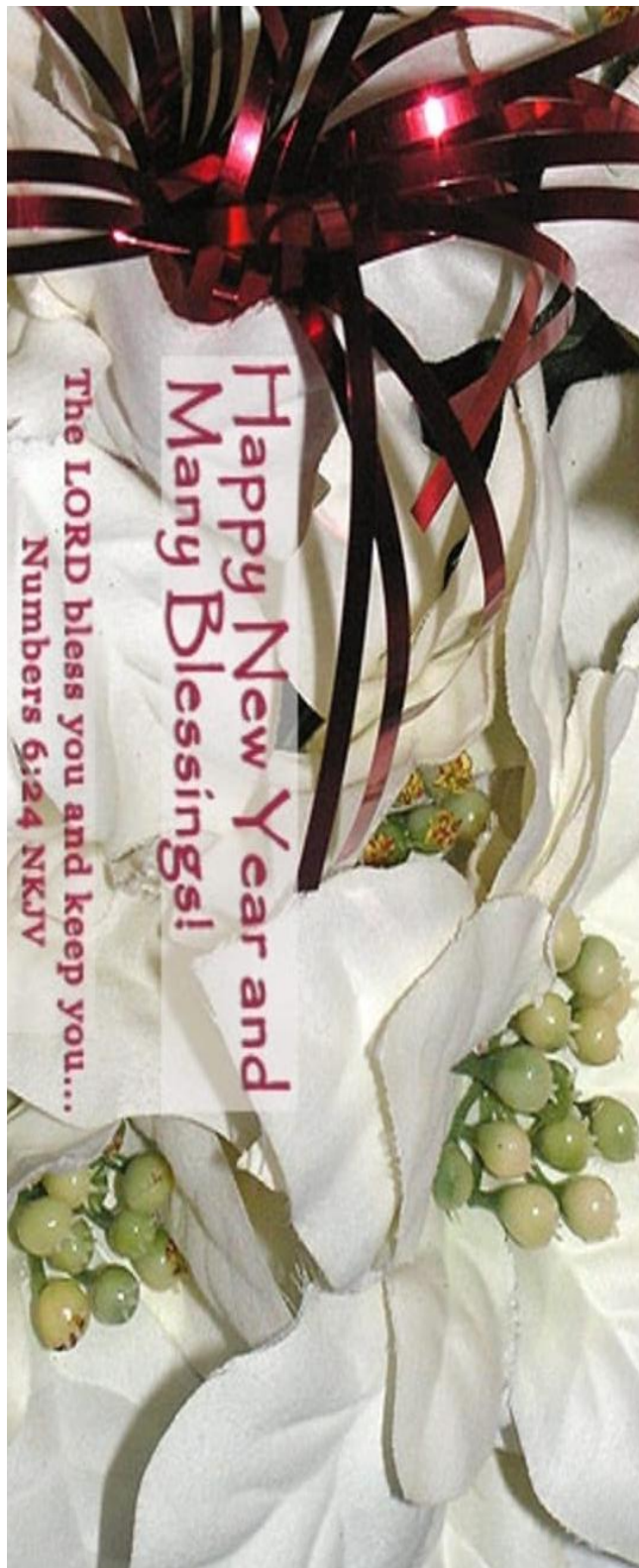
January Junior Church Leaders

- 4 Rhonda Harris/Tammy Knipp
- 11 Robin Baldwin/Chris Sigley
- 18 Cathy Mellott/Cindy Renner
- 25 Trudee Davis/Karen Kozicki

Youth Sunday School Leaders

- 4 Sandi Rich/Laurie Spatholt
- 11 Sandi Rich/Jenny Spencer-Cain
- 18 Sandi Rich/Sheila Spencer
- 25 Sandi Rich/Becky Eckels

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
November 23	77	\$2880
November 30	58	\$2025
December 7	61	\$2374
December 14	36	\$1245
December 21	72	\$2485
December 24	107	\$2145



THE BRIDGE
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 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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 Nancy Goddard, Custodian
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