

The  
Bridge

## 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

www.ohltownumc.com ~ ohltownumc@gmail.com



**June 2020 Issue**

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

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### *A message from the Pastor*

Dear Friends,

The leaves are green, the grass needs cut, and the air conditioners are humming. It is official, summer is about to begin. But that does not mean things are back to normal.

The most pressing question on everyone's mind and lips these days is: "When are we going to open back up?" So, let me answer that question... First of all, we were NEVER closed. Yes, we did and are still practicing social distancing, but the Church was never closed! We may not have been together in the same room for worship... but we have been worshipping together. Ministry was still taking place. We were reaching out to others in need with food and other necessities. We held a Baccalaureate service and I was blessed to be asked to deliver the message. We purchased a sign to acknowledge and congratulate our graduates. The Mission Committee gave financial support to the Mineral Ridge Parish Association to help with feeding the children of Mineral Ridge Schools. Our Prayer Chain has been operating, and many of you have been reaching out to others to find out how you can be of assistance.

Last week the Administrative Council held a Zoom meeting to discuss when the church should have in-person worship again. There were twelve people present during that meeting and they have decided that we need to revisit the issue at the end of June. They and I agree that our main objective should be to keep our family safe. We are still in the infancy stages of people coming out of quarantine. It is in our best interest to wait and see. I know this has been difficult. But how much more difficult would it be to prematurely meet and have one or more of our family members become ill or, worse yet, die? I would rather be separated from you for a brief time than to be separated from you forever.

So until then...remain strong, stay healthy, pick up the phone and call your friends. Or better yet...drive to their house and take your lawn chair and talk to them from 6 feet away. If you miss worshipping with them, call them so you can watch worship together. We will be together soon. Maybe not the way we used to worship, but we will be together. Trust God, and the wisdom and discernment of your Administrative Council and your pastor.

Blessings,

*Pastor Teresa*



## Opportunities to Pray for One Another

*Our deepest sympathies to Lillian following the passing of Wendy*  
*Our deepest sympathies to Carolyn H. following the passing of her friend, Karen*

Al D.  
Blake H.  
John (lifted by Randy and Cheryl)  
Juanita (lifted by Pastor Teresa)  
Karen P.  
Larry (lifted by Linda R.)  
Lora (lifted by Carolyn H.)  
Margie F.  
Marv (lifted by Harold & Sheryl)

Nancy (lifted by Joan)  
Peyton (lifted by Debbie F.)  
Sheryl B.  
Sophia (lifted by Sarah P.)  
Susan (lifted by Beverly)  
Tammy (lifted by Marcy)  
Tom P.  
Yvonne H.  
Zack (lifted by Lorna)



Greetings!

This is just an update for the Girls of Promise. Like here, Liberia has been shut down and quarantined. Schools have been closed but unlike here there is no online classes available so I do not know what will happen with this year. I spoke with one of our teachers yesterday and he said they closed them for 14 days and then 14 more and then more so he doesn't know what will happen. The team that was going over in July is obviously not going and will try to go next summer. The gentleman who was over there as the missionary in residence had to come home for a medical emergency. He fell and hurt his back and developed blood clots once he was home, so please keep him in prayer. He is longing for a return to health and a return to Harrisburg whenever that can safely happen. I was hoping to go over in January but with this continuing pandemic and the fear of it reoccurring in the fall making that questionable as well. We have no way to send cards or other things over there at this time until someone can physically carry them over with them. When that happens I will notify you all again so if you want to send notes back to your girls you can. Please, please keep them in prayer. With no school to ground them, that means they are out "on the loose". They also cannot have church services and those are vital to keeping them hopeful and there is no online worship for them so they are really sheltered. They do have cell phones . . . sometimes when they can afford it and get service . . . so they get news and can talk with each other, if they are blessed with a phone but it is even more difficult than before. Unlike us, they have weathered Ebola and life without any amenities so I think they are better prepared than we were and are for what we are experiencing, but it is not easy for any of us. I pray you are all well, staying safe and staying sane at this incredible insane time. Be careful in opening up again, be smart. I pray all of you are grounded in the love and presence of God and trust that God is seeing us through.

Blessings to each of you,  
Cathy Ake

A note from the  
Church Office:



As we continue to develop our online worship services, we thank you for your flexibility! The services are available through our Facebook page, our YouTube channel, and our church website (ohltownumc.com). If you happen to miss the 9:30 am Sunday morning posting, the video is still available for viewing beyond the day it is shared. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 330-652-6614 or send an email to [ohltownumc@gmail.com](mailto:ohltownumc@gmail.com) during office hours Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 1 pm. There are times when the phone cannot be answered right away such as when we are recording for the service or when I have to go off-site to do the video editing. Feel free to leave a message!

Your Administrative Assistant,  
Beverly



Would you like to bless your church family with special music this summer? Submit your video to the church office, or schedule an appointment for a safe socially distant recording session. Call or email for details and availability.



A special thank you to Carol Ann for sharing her music with us this month! We very much appreciate your uplifting and inspiring gift. Your voice helped all our souls to sing and it was a great encouragement. Again, we thank you!

### *Facts and Figures*

	Given to the Lord	Video views
May 3	\$1,810	97
May 10	\$2,820	117
May 17	\$1,435	85
May 25	\$ 935	88

### *Peace with Justice Sunday*

On **June 7**, we celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday and the work that is done through our special offerings. On Peace with Justice Sunday, we give so that all of God’s children have adequate access to homes, jobs, food, clean water, health care, and more. In doing so, we honor the dignity of every individual who has been made in God’s image. To give directly to this ministry, please go to [eocumc.com](http://eocumc.com) and follow the links. Or, feel free to send in your special donation along with your regular tithe to Joan with “Peace with Justice” in the memo line.

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

### June Birthdays

- 2 Randy Emrich
- 5 Julie Gearhart
- 7 Chrissy Baird, Christy Sheldon
- 9 Tammy Knipp
- 11 Garth Sheldon
- 17 Steven Sigley
- 19 Bob Darby
- 21 Alma Plant
- 24 Carolyn Lorent

### June Anniversaries

- 10 Preston & Diane Walker
- 11 Clark & Adria Hood
- 14 Andy & Kalynn Welch
- 18 Lynn & Linda Whittlesey
- 27 Robert & Robin Baldwin



Join us for worship online!

[OhltownUMC.com](http://OhltownUMC.com)

Find us on our Facebook page  
and on our YouTube channel



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Mineral Ridge, Ohio 44440

#### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Teresa C. Smolka, Pastor

Nancy Goddard, Custodian

Beverly Kalasky, Secretary

Truman Littler, Choir Director

June 2020

Available online at [ohltownumc.com](http://ohltownumc.com)