

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



March 2019

*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

It is official. The Traditional Plan has passed and the current stance on human sexuality will remain unchanged. There may be parts of this plan ruled “unconstitutional” by the UMC Judicial Council, but much of the plan will go into effect. This means the United Methodist Church will maintain strict ordination standards and not allow clergy to officiate or churches to host same-sex weddings.

Some are celebrating this ruling. Some are weeping in great distress and sadness. However, this 51-year fight on human sexuality is over. Now, hopefully, the United Methodist Church can more fully focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

I pray that folks will not have a knee-jerk reaction to this ruling and leave the church because they are unhappy. Although I have already heard many say they can no longer be a member of a church that is not progressive. I pray that people will see that God has a plan. We may not know what that plan is, but we have faith in God and for his desire to have love prevail.

Let me be clear.... Nothing that happened this week keeps this or any church from doing kingdom work! We will still follow Jesus’ plan to love, accept, and include.

This is from our Bishop: “Many people have shared with me their heartfelt thoughts and feelings regarding the results of the Special Session. There are some who are pleased with the outcome and some who are deeply hurt and disappointed. My heart weeps for the brokenness experienced within the body of Christ. It is in times like these that community and togetherness are most important. Let us turn towards God and one another for strength and encouragement. Let the love we have for the Lord, for our neighbor and for the mission, sustain us for the journey. Stay...United! God is with us and will guide us! “*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*” Joshua 1:9

All lay and clergy of East Ohio are invited to attend one of the **post-General Conference** informational gatherings led by Bishop Malone and members of our East Ohio delegation:

Saturday, March 9	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Newcomerstown Christ UMC
Saturday, March 9	2:00 – 3:30 p.m.	North Canton Faith UMC
Sunday, March 10	4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Strongsville UMC

No matter what, we need to remember we are brothers and sisters in Christ. Some may leave the denomination, others may return. But we are a family. Let us treat our family with respect and kindness. God is with us and with the decision that was made on our behalf. Let us respect all involved and err on the side of love.

Blessings,
Pastor Teresa

Opportunities to Worship

March 3 ~ Communion Sunday

Let us Break bread together and prepare our hearts for the upcoming Lenten season

March 6 ~ Ash Wednesday Service at Smith Corners UMC, 7:00 pm Pastor Jeffery Harrison will deliver the message. Join us for a service of communion & the imposition of ashes.

March 10 ~ 1st Sunday in Lent

March 12 ~ Lenten Study: *The Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel

In *The Case for Christ*, Strobel examines: The Medical Evidence - Was Jesus' death a sham and his resurrection a hoax? The Evidence of the Missing Body - Was Jesus' body really absent from his tomb? The Evidence of Appearances - Was Jesus seen alive after his death on the cross? Written in a hard-hitting journalistic style, this book probes the core issues of the resurrection. Jesus Christ, risen from the dead: superstitious myth or life-changing reality? The evidence is in. The verdict is up to you. Join us for this 4-week study.

March 17 ~ 2nd Sunday in Lent

March 19 ~ Lenten Study: *The Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel Join us at either session 11:00 am or 6:00 pm

March 24 ~ 3rd Sunday in Lent

March 26 ~ Lenten Study: *The Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel Join us at either session 11:00 am or 6:00 pm

March 31 ~ UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) & 4th Sunday in Lent

A gift to UMCOR enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. A special offering will be taken.

April 2 ~ Lenten Study: *The Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel Join us at either session 11:00 am or 6:00 pm

April 6 ~ Spring District Conference at Church Hill United Methodist Church from 9 am to noon

April 7 ~ 5th Sunday in Lent & Communion Sunday

April 14 ~ Palm Sunday

April 18 ~ Maundy Thursday Join us as we remember the Last Supper. We remember by partaking in a foot washing (optional), a baptism renewal, and Holy Communion. Service will be here at Ohltown at 7:00 pm with Pastor Brad Bloomster to deliver the message.

April 19 ~ Good Friday Service will be held at West Austintown. Pastor Teresa will be delivering the message. The service begins at noon.

Thank you

Thank you to Beverly Kalasky for filling in for me while I was away and to Cheryl Emrich for filling the pulpit at New Hope in my absence. I hear they did a fantastic job!

~Pastor Teresa

Thank you to Connor Keller and Jeff McCracken for making sure the parking lot and sidewalks were clear when we had a sudden snow storm.

Thank you to those who worked on and completed the church audit to the District Office.

Mission Committee

For those who are making cakes for the Good Shepherd luncheon on March 9, please have them to the church before 10 am on Saturday. Thank you for being a part of this important ministry.

Lay Servant Training

There will be a Lay Servant Training offered **March 29 and 30** at Canfield United Methodist Church. The Basic Course and an advanced course are available. Please see the bulletin board for the flyer; you can also register online at:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-2019-lay-servant-training-mahoning-valleydistrict-umc-tickets-54869575377>

The deadline for registration is March 15. See the church office for more information.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will have their Spring District Meeting on Thursday, **April 11** starting at 9 am at Lockwood UMC. Your paid \$9 reservation is due to Linda Hahn by March 24.

Reuben Sale

Thank you for all the Reuben pre-orders! Along with the Reuben Sale on Saturday, **March 16** there will also be pies available from the UMW and potato soup by the Youth Group.

UMCOR Sunday

Previously known as One Great Hour of Sharing, this Sunday enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. Be prepared to share with a special offering on **March 31**.

Egg Hunt



Our Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, **April 7** from 2 – 3 pm. We are in need of some donations to help make this year another success! Items needed include candy and small trinkets such as erasers, tiny bubbles, and the like to fit into the eggs.

Summer Camp

Want to know more about camp? Our East Ohio camps are having open houses to tour the sites, talk to the staff, and see what is being offered for 2019.



East Ohio Camps



Sat., March 30 from 2 – 5 pm



Sat., April 14 from 2 – 5 pm



Sat., April 27 from 2 – 6 pm

There are also camp scholarships available through the District Office. The application deadline for the \$50 scholarship (paid directly to the camp) is due May 3 but is first come, first served. Act quickly! See the church office or speak with Christy Sheldon for an application or more information.

Choir



Feel free to join us in song during our special services coming up next month for Maundy Thursday and Resurrection Sunday! Speak with Beverly about rehearsal times and getting music and practice tracks. We would love to invite you to experience worship from a different perspective. All are welcome. Make a joyful noise with us!

Opportunities to Pray for One Another



Prayer Concerns

Al Darby	Gina Solinger	Mary Beth (lifted by Sarah Plant)
Alma (lifted by Sheryl B.)	Harold Baringer	Preston Walker
Bill (lifted by Daryle)	Jim (lifted by Carolyn Lorent)	Tom (lifted by Pastor Teresa)
Blake Hood	LuAnn Allen	Wanda Armstrong
Bud Simkins	Marcella (lifted by Linda W.)	Yvonne Hornberger
Chick Giovanni	Mary Ann (lifted by Frank)	Zack (lifted by Lorna)

Joy

Congratulations to Willow Keller upon her qualifying to State for Speech

Condolences

Our deepest sympathies to Ron Fleet and family following the passing of Laretta
Our deepest sympathies to Robin Baldwin and Chris Sigley following the passing of their father
Our deepest sympathies to the family of Rev. Jack Yeager following his passing
(Calling hours will be at The United Methodist Church in Stow on April 13 from 12—2 pm)

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

March Birthdays

2	Karen Rich
4	Al Darby
6	Rebecca Hood, Dylan Sigley, Michael Fisher
9	Ashley Cardwell, Eric Cottrell, Stephany Darby, Janet Welliver
12	Joy Heidinger
13	Linda Robb
17	Hannah Baird
27	Joe Assion
28	Rhonda Goist
29	David Darby, Willovene Plant, Jerry Rouzzo, Guy Shively
30	Krista Bowers

March Anniversary

24 Mike & Debbie Fisher

Updated address:

Elmira Smodic
107 Westchester Drive APT 501
Youngstown, OH 44515







Keep our worship leaders for the month in your prayers:

March Worship Leaders

	<i>Liturgists</i>	<i>Greeters</i>
3	Frank Sloat	Bill & Linda Robb
10	Sandi Rich	Lois Ann Phillips
17	Frank Sloat	Dave & Cathy Mellott
24	Linda Hahn	Rhonda Harris & Carolyn Lorent
31	Tom Hoover	Al & Connie Darby

March 2019

Sunday Worship 9:30 am / Sunday School 10:45 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Looking ahead:</i> Egg Hunt Sunday, April 7 from 2 – 3 pm</p>					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>Communion</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pastor Teresa DCOM 8:30 am – 3:30 pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Quilters 10 am</p> <p>Ash Wednesday at Smith Corners UMC 7pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Trustee Meeting 10 am</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> 
<p>10</p> <p>Easter Flower orders due</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Begins</p>		<p>12</p> <p>Lent Bible Study 11 am / 6 pm</p>	<p>13 Quilters 10 am</p> <p>Pastor Teresa DCOM 8:30 am – 3:30 pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 6 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Lay Servant Training RSVP deadline</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Reuben Sale Pie Sale Potato Soup Sale</p>
<p>17</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>UMW make blankets for Akron Children's 4 – 7 pm All welcome</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Humility House worship 10 am</p> <p>Lent Bible Study 11 am / 6 pm</p>	<p>20 Quilters 10 am</p>  <p>Choir Rehearsal 6</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>31</p> <p>UMCOR Sunday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Lent Bible Study 11 am / 6 pm</p>	<p>27 Quilters 10 am</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 6 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Lay Servant Training</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Lay Servant Training</p>



Easter Flowers



Order due by March 10

Orders are prepaid; make checks payable to *Ohltown Flower Fund*.
Due to the greenhouse's deadline, no late orders will be accepted.

Daffodils _____ quantity x \$8 = _____

Hyacinths _____ quantity x \$8 = _____

Tulips _____ quantity x \$8 = _____

Lilies _____ quantity x \$8 = _____

Chrysanthemum _____ quantity x \$8 = _____

Hydrangeas _____ quantity x \$16= _____

Azaleas _____ quantity x \$16= _____

Total Enclosed _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given to the Glory of God _____

Given by: _____

Flowers can be picked up following worship on Easter Sunday.

Orders should be given to the church office or to Debbie.

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