



# OHLTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2001 OHLTOWN ROAD, MINERAL RIDGE, OHIO 44440

Pastor Teresa C. Smolka

(330) 652-6614

October 1, 2020

Dear Friends,

First, I would like to thank each and every one of you who have faithfully contributed to the Church during the pandemic. I appreciate you remembering the church and our continued ministry. While we have been isolated from one another, and we have not held in person worship in the sanctuary, the church has remained opened and engaged in ministry. That is due to your generous giving.

It is that time of year again when we talk about stewardship and the importance of your pledge. When you pledge to the church you are making a commitment of giving that allows us to know what finances we have to work with for the coming year.

But please remember why we tithe. Giving financially is a response to God's boundless grace and generosity. It's a form of worship acknowledging and expressing that all we have, as individual members of one Body, comes from God. Giving glorifies and honors his abundant generosity and reflects it back toward him as those made in his image and likeness. Giving also says we aren't afraid of lacking anything because God is our source and we trust him.

As we approach Stewardship Sunday, we need to remember we are stewards, not owners. A steward is a person who has been entrusted with and who manages another's resources according to the owner's vision and values. Each of us was created for stewardship by God. We are stewards of the Church, the property, the community, and those in need. By pledging we are saying yes to the responsibility God has placed before us. Below is your commitment card. Please prayerful consider your commitment for the coming year and fill it out and return it with your offering either to the church, or Joan. You may also drop it off if you like.

Thank you for your commitment to Ohltown,

*Pastor Teresa*

**~ 2021 Commitment Card ~**

**Ohltown United Methodist Church**

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6: 21*

**I/We intend to give the following next year:**

**(CIRCLE ONE below for each line)**

**Current Expenses**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly    monthly    one time

**Other**                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly    monthly    one time

\_\_\_\_\_ We recognize that many people have a variable income. Will you commit to giving as much as you can when you can?

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**~ RETURN THIS PORTION TO THE CHURCH ~**

**Sunday, October 11, 2020**



## 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



**October 2020**

*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 your Pastor*

Dear Friends,

I remember growing up and my parents instilling in us the importance of respect. Respect for ourselves, respect for our country, respect for opportunities and for our fellow human kind. We said yes sir or yes ma'am. We never called adults by their first name, it was either Miss Joan or Mrs. Garland, but never just Joan. I remember the first time one of my friends called my mother by her first name, I looked at her like she had two heads. It just wasn't done. I have gotten used to people not being as respectful as they used to be. It is not a race thing, or an age issue, it is the lack of common courtesy. I have gotten used to seeing children throwing temper tantrums in the store and parents knuckling under to get them to be quiet. I have gotten accustomed to hearing vulgar language in the presence of women and children. I knew men swore when I was growing up, but it was only in the company of other men. It seems that manners have gone out of style.

Romans 12:10 reads: "*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*" Now why am I telling you this? Because this week I witnessed something I will NEVER get used to. I watched as an adult daughter disrespected her elderly mother. She treated her like a second-class citizen. She seemed to be put out that her mother was still alive and was more focused on what she would get when her mother went on to glory than the precious time she has with her now. In Matthew 7:12 we read: "*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets*". I have to wonder; how will this person feel when it is her son or daughter that is anxious for her to die so that she or he can inherit her possessions? Oh, what I wouldn't give to have one more conversation, one more hug, one more smile from my mom and or dad.

Have we failed our children? Are we not teaching them how to respect parents, elders, and each other? Ephesians 6:1-4 reads: "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise—so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*"

I was going to use this time to remind you to vote in November. That it is an honor and privilege. But the actions of this woman caused me to rethink that. Yes, I want you to love your country enough to make informed choices. But I want you to love and respect your loved ones enough to treat them well. We will never end racism, or sexism, or have equality if we cannot even treat our own family with love, compassion and kindness. How will you feel when you are standing before God and he shows you how you treated the person that gave you life? All life is precious. The life of a new born is no more precious than that of someone coming to the end of their journey. Be kind. Be wise. And teach our children how to love. The world will thank you.

Blessings,

*Pastor Teresa*



*Our deepest sympathies to Rhonda following the passing of her mother-in-law*

*Our deepest sympathies to Dean following the passing of his friend Tim*

*Our deepest sympathies to Sheryl following the passing of her friend's daughter, Amanda*

*Our deepest sympathies to Willovene's great grandson Cameron following the passing of his father*



A big thank you to everyone that had a hand in making sure that our Charge Conference forms were turned in, not only on time, but early! Our Charge Conference will be held on **October 21**, at **6:00 pm** in the church pavilion. Please wear a mask OR stay in your car as we do have the capabilities for transmitting over the radio.

A very special thank you to David and Cathy Mellott for providing the F.M. transmitter and microphone that is allowing our congregation to worship together while remaining socially distant.

Thank you to Jeff McCracken and Bill Hahn for tending to the plumbing concerns in the women's bathroom at the church.

Lois Ann, Margie, and Ron: we are so grateful for your contributions to our services last month! Thank you for being a part of the recording process and offering the Scriptures and leading in the music. It is wonderful to see our church family and we thank you.

Thank you so much to the SPPRC for your work and meeting with Rev. Abby Auman, our District Superintendent, on September 16 for our annual consultation. They shared with Rev. Auman the good news of Ohltown and how we are persevering during the covid outbreak. Rev. Abby was happy to hear that our ministry and mission outreach have continued during these difficult times.

What an honor it was for Pastor Teresa to be able to baptize Makenzie Seifert. Makenzie's parents, Joey and Shannon, and grandparents, Larry and Vivian, have worshiped with us in the past.

Thank you, Rhonda Harris, for donating pumpkins to our Fall Fest and for the lovely mums that adorn our altar.

Thank you, Cheryl and Randy Emrich, for donating necessary items for the Harvest Festival.

Thank you to the Finance Committee and the Administrative Council members for being flexible and approving the Tentative 2021 Budget via phone and email correspondence. It allowed us to get our paperwork in on time.

Thank you to Jeff yet again for your time and assistance as the church continues to try to get an updated internet service. Your help in this has been very much appreciated!

Join us for worship in the church parking lot on Sunday, **October 4** at **9:30 am**. Enjoy a time of prayer, the message, and communion from your car. Simply tune in to the FM station as directed. Our online worship service will still be available.



World Communion Sunday is **October 4**. There is a special offering collected to support the division of chaplains and ministries, Crusade Scholarships, and the scholarship fund for minority groups. If you would like to contribute to these particular ministries which support education for people all over the world, please make a note in the memo line of your check for "World Communion Sunday" and Joan will see to it that your gift be sent to those in need.

In 2019 The United Methodist Church gave \$663,666 towards the ministries funded by the World Communion Sunday offering. This offering supports diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion Scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries; the remainder assists Ethnic Scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduates studying in the U.S. and Ethnic In-Service Training. These funds are administered by the General Boards' of Higher Education and Ministry and Global Ministries.

## BIBLE STUDY

It's not too late to join us for our Tuesday Bible Study. We are exploring the book of Job and would love to invite you to our new 2 pm time either in person or on Zoom.

## October is

## Pastor Appreciation month

Let's surprise and be sure to let Pastor Teresa know how much she is appreciated this month! Not only is it Pastor Appreciation month, her birthday is also this month on the 12<sup>th</sup>! Beverly would like to create a video for Pastor Teresa of messages from her church family. It is terribly difficult for her not to see your faces very often! Please send a short message by Monday, October 12 so the videos can be compiled and presented to Pastor Teresa within the month. You can email a short (30 seconds or less) video clip of yourself (you can record this on most cell phones) of something you appreciate about Pastor Teresa. Beverly can also bring a camera to you and social distance record your clip. Please contact Beverly at 330-206-6517 to set up a time for her to meet you or send your clip to the church office at [ohltownumc@gmail.com](mailto:ohltownumc@gmail.com).

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Administrative Council will meet on **Wednesday, October 7** at **6 pm** in the church or on Zoom.

## CHARGE CONFERENCE

Those in leadership positions are expected to be present for our annual Charge Conference on **Wednesday, October 21** at **6 pm** in our church parking lot. Thank you to those who so diligently submitted needed information and statistics. A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Teresa for compiling and completing all the forms!

## VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

As Veteran's Day approaches, we would like to honor those in our church family who have served! Please submit your service photo to the church office by Monday, October 26 either through email or bring in a copy for Beverly to scan. We would like to include your photo along with what branch you were in, what years you served, and what rank you were discharged in our worship service.

The SPPRC presents:

Drive Thru



Sponsored by Ohltown United Methodist Church

2001 Ohltown Road, Mineral Ridge, Ohio 44440  
330-652-6614  
Ohltownumc.com

**Sunday, October 18, 2020**  
2 - 3 p.m.

Drive thru the cemetery and stop at each station to receive:

- Pumpkin to decorate
- Crafts to take home and make
- S'more to make
- Apple juice and donuts

**A Social Distancing Event for Children**

## Facts and Figures

	Online views	Parking Lot attendees	Tithes and Gifts
Sept 6	68		\$1,870
Sept 13	47	28	\$2,435
Sept 20	81	20	\$1,785
Sept 27	Conference Worship		\$1,100

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

### October Birthdays

- 4 Laura Fisher
- 7 John Cruz
- 12 Pastor Teresa Smolka
- 17 Trudee Davis
- 22 Lorna Ramsey, Elmira Smodic
- 30 Linda Paulsey
- 31 Greg Hood, Rich Rich, Linsy Shively

### October Anniversaries

- 4 Dean & Tammy Knipp
- 11 Mike & Lonnie Schill
- 17 Bill & Linda Robb
- 18 Steven & Chris Sigley

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  
 Truman Littler, Choir Director