



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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September 2020

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

Dear Friends,

As I was cleaning out my desk drawer, I ran across a business sized card that my mother had on her desk. Actually, she had a little angel that was holding many of these cards and she would read them daily. That was how she started her day. The Scripture text is Zechariah 7: 9 NIV: "...Show mercy and compassion to one another" on the other side it reads: "God loves us so much that He doesn't want us to carry our hurts and pain alone. He puts other people into our life because two people can carry a burden easier than just one. Together, we can help each other through life's challenges."

What burden are you trying to bear alone? How is your health? How is your mental health? Perhaps the question I should be asking is how is your spiritual health? Are you feeling alone and isolated? Are you feeling distant from your church and your church family? It is perfectly normal to have feelings of anxiety, fear, and isolation.

I have been saying for a very long time "We are better together" but how do we remain together when we are told to be isolated? Beloved, we are together in Christ. We are together in our belief system, our doctrine, and our theology. We are together in worship and in our common love for our Lord and Savior and for each other.

But how do we keep those connections strong when we want to protect ourselves, the ones we love, and our church family? I have noticed that our attendance for our online worship has waned a bit. I know you can watch it anytime you want...but isn't it comforting to know that you are watching it with your friends at the same time? Why not call a friend and watch it together? I have appreciated the Zoom meetings and Duo calls. It allows me to see my friends and still keep them safe.

I am planning a fall Bible Study and I have already ordered our Advent study. While some of you may not want to attend in person, I will offer an online option so you can stay connected to our church family. Beginning September 15, we will begin a 6-week study entitled: Laughing in the Dark, A study of the book of Job. I hope you will join us. We will meet either in person (with masks & 6 feet apart) or via the internet. We will be meeting at 6:00 p.m. to allow those working to join us. Come share in God's word, and your burden will be lessened. Be well my friends!

Blessings,
Pastor Teresa

Thanks

Thank you to Jeff McCracken, the Keller children, and the Chris Plant family for digging the trench to allow the church to receive internet service through Armstrong cable. While the project is not complete as of yet, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Thank you to the trustees for making sure our parking lot is sealed and protected from the elements. Thank you also to the Baird family for the parking lot lines.

A big debt of gratitude is extended to all of the individuals that have volunteered to be liturgist, worship leaders, and shared your musical talents with the congregation. You are appreciated more than you know.

Thank you to the families that provided the monies for the new church office computer which is allowing us to create a more creative online worship service. Better yet, the computer work can be done in the church office now.

Food Pantry

Thank you to all who were able to contribute to the Mineral Ridge Food Pantry distribution that happened in August. The Pantry was able to give out forty-three bags of food and vouchers totaling around \$1000. Your generosity, along with other Mineral Ridge churches, has been such a blessing to those who are in need. Thank you for being a constant support to our community through such uncertain times!

Gas Ministry

Thank you to those who have contributed to the gas ministry. You contributed \$295.00 to date. The idea is to share the bounty of God's love, with no strings attached. We will pump \$10.00 worth of gas to random strangers. The mission committee will be making up the different in the contributions given by you, to allow us to spend \$500.00 for this mission.

Thank you SPPRC Committee

The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee met and were diligent about filling out the forms necessary for the SPPRC **September 16** consultation with the District Superintendent. Those serving on this committee PLEASE mark this date on your calendar for **8 pm**.

Welcome to Ohltown UMC

What a blessing to FINALLY get to welcome Connor Keller and Alex Bogniard to our church family. They were to have joined the church on Palm Sunday, but we are now able to make it official on Sunday, September 6.

Would you like to help?

It has been wonderful that different people are coming in to be filmed leading us in the call to worship and the unison prayer as well as reading the scripture text. If you are feeling called to participate in this ministry, even if you are not a liturgist, please contact Pastor Teresa or the church office. All are welcome to serve the Lord!

Parking Lot Worship Service

Thank you to Dave Mellott for purchasing an FM Transmitter. We will soon be able to have parking lot worship services as well as on-line services. A parking lot service will be a modified version of our online service. You will remain in your car and be instructed where to tune your dial. You will be able to worship in your car in safety yet still catch a glimpse of your friends. We will also be offering pre-packaged elements for communion once a month (however, they are on backorder, you may also choose to bring your own elements). We had hoped to begin this service the first Sunday of September. We have to make adjustments to the system and are not prepared as of yet to begin this ministry. We will keep you informed.

Recorded Worship Services

If you or someone you know does not have internet access to view the worship services and would like to see them, please call the church office (330-652-6614) to receive a DVD.



Members of the Nominating Committee

Please call or e-mail Pastor Teresa with the results of your assignment. If you would like to serve on a church committee but have not been contacted, please call Pastor Teresa **BEFORE September 22**.

Bible Study

Join us either in person or via zoom for our fall Bible study: Laughing in the Dark; A Bible Study on the Book of Job...And we think we have trials! We will begin on **Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 6 pm.**

Advent is around the corner!



Pastor Teresa had the privilege of attending a webinar hosted by Adam Hamilton entitled: "The promise of Advent". He and his panel were an inspiration. While we may not do things the way we have always done, that does not mean we cannot do things. For example, Pastor Teresa would like each family to have four candles available for the first Sunday of Advent. Ideally, the battery-operated ones would work best as you do not have to worry about them starting a fire. But whatever you feel comfortable using is up to you. There will be a plan by our First Sunday, November 29. Get ready!

Planning ahead



Do you have a particularly lovely Nativity set? Or maybe it has lost its luster but has special meaning. If you could take a picture of your favorite Nativity Set and e-mail it to either Pastor Teresa or Beverly at the church office, it would be appreciated. You might not have them out yet, so let's plan on getting the picture to the office by **December 13** so we can incorporate them into a worship service. If you have more than one, go ahead and send several clear digital photos. Thank you in advance.

FACTS AND FIGURES

August 2	51 views	\$ 615
August 9	71 views	\$3,160
August 16	55 views	\$ 690
August 23	56 views	\$1,785
August 30	53 views	no deposit

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

Birthdays

- 3 Sarah Hahn, Barbara Loitwood
- 5 Tyler Cluse
- 8 Merri McCracken
- 9 Mary Jane Gehring
- 10 Sharon Day
- 13 Chris Sigley
- 17 Clark Hood
- 19 Aaron Baldwin
- 20 Chrystal Shofroth
- 22 Terry Carr
- 25 Lou Ellen Oakes
- 27 Yvonne Hornberger
- 29 Frank Sloat
- 30 Sandi Rich

Anniversaries

- 8 Don & Janet Hood
- 9 Ed & Virginia Cluse
- 10 Rich & Karen Rich
- 25 Joe & Chrissy Baird
- 26 Earl & Robin Bowers
- 27 Garth & Christy Sheldon



Join us for worship online!
OhitownUMC.com
Find us on our Facebook page
and on our YouTube channel



THE BRIDGE
Ohitown United Methodist Church
2001 Ohitown Road
Mineral Ridge, Ohio 44440

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Teresa C. Smolka, Pastor
Nancy Goddard, Custodian
Beverly Kalasky, Secretary
Truman Littler, Choir Director