



The Johnstown United Methodist Church
May 2019

The **Connection**



Thoughts from the Senior Pastor...

Well, we are getting ready to move into summer, and things at Johnstown United Methodist are rolling right along! There have been several things that have taken place over the last four months, and I felt that this would be a great opportunity to share them with you. Perhaps the most noticeable changes, or additions, to the church have come in the order of leadership roles. We have been able to engage several new members in formerly vacant committee positions, which is excellent, as it provides our church with some much needed new perspectives. **Matt Dole** has assumed the position of Finance Chair, while **Chad Lattimer** is now our Financial Secretary. After consultation with **Ron Carr**, and receiving his gracious blessing, I was able to approach both of these newer members, who excitedly agreed to serve.

We have added **Cathy Mullin** to the SPRC, after the recommendation of some currently serving members of the committee; and have added **Sue Overholt** as a Trustee, under similar circumstances. With respect to the Leadership Council, **Mary Thomas** is being joined by **Dan West** as a Co-Chair, after careful consideration following her endorsement.

I mention all of this for the sake of transparency within the Pastor's office. In case anyone was concerned that appointments were made without consultation, I can assure you that they were not; in fact, all positions were formerly vacant, or requested to be filled by the existing, serving, committee members.

"We are called according to His purpose." Serving God's church in Johnstown....

Where does this put us for the coming months? Well, the church has a vehicle in place to fill all positions, which will become vacant by the end of 2019, in the form of the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee. This is a Discipline (our official "rule book" of the United Methodist Church) created, and mandatory committee. It is made up of the Pastor, who serves as the chair, the Lay Leader of the local congregation, and various other committee chairs (for example SPRC, Trustees, and Finance). We also have room for At-Large positions on the committee, so be ready, as you may be "tapped" to serve.

The purpose of the committee, as I mentioned earlier, is to fill vacancies on standing committees within the church; but to also help those selected to serve develop the skills necessary to be productive and valuable members of the local church leadership. We will be publishing a list of the make-up of the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee at a later date, so that if you know someone who you think will be a good asset to the church, in a leadership role, you can inform a committee member; or if you, yourself, would like to get involved.

(continued on page 5)



Pastor's Blog

by Pastor Matt



Something Old is Something New

Recently I was able to change the furniture in my office. I have exchanged the desk, which was in the office when I arrived, with one that has been in my family for nearly 50 years. This old desk belonged to my father, and was used by him throughout his career as a lawyer, and then later by my wife as she began her legal career. Eventually it came into my possession and care, where it has remained since his death, thirteen years ago. This is my something old, which by moving it into my office, has become something new—new to this office, and moreover, new to my use as a Pastor.

As I sit at it now, writing this Blog, I cannot help but be reminded that our faith, though new at one point, for many has become old. As such, our faith seems stale and stagnant. However, just because it is old, there is no reason that it cannot become new again. What I am talking about is repurposing our faith story, and adapting it to a new setting.

Each of us has a Jesus story, a beginning to our faith, and as such, each of us has something we can share, tell, and more importantly, re-live. The challenge that we all face is how to energize something, which for several has become dormant. Well, one of the best ways to activate your faith, the something old in your life, to repurpose it, to make it come alive again, is to be around other Christians more often. To do so, means that you must be willing to subordinate your busy lifestyle to the Lord, allowing God to direct your path; rather than trying to dictate how God can serve you.

I am reminded of my father each time I run my hands across the surface of this desk; reminded of the times when I was a child, trying to hide underneath it, while he was attempting to work. I am reminded of the joy that I felt each time I was in his presence, and the awe of seeing him running his business from behind it—thinking to myself that some day I wanted to do the same thing.

Our relationship with God is the same way. When we were young in our faith, we found excitement; as we matured, we found and discovered the majesty of God; as we grew closer to Jesus, we longed to emulate His ways in our life. Today, I encourage you to look around, and find tangible reminders of your life in Christ. Maybe it is the Bible you received at confirmation, or the shell used in your baptism, or even still, a picture of a long departed relative, who was instrumental in teaching you the stories from scripture, or how to pray.

When you bring them to the forefront of life, finding a place to employ them, embracing them, you cannot help but rediscover those old feelings, and have them become new again in your life. When you do that, you will find that your relationship with God grows stronger, and that the excitement of knowing Jesus will consume you. This is what every Christian should strive to achieve. Just think, through this desk, my faith may even become new again too.



SPRC Report

by Cindi Reeves

Easter “bags” were delivered in Leafy Dell, Concord Crossing, and Concord Crossing East. Each bag included our schedule for Easter, a bookmark with information about our church, and the pastor’s business card. These were well received and an important way to connect with the community. Thank you to all who helped pass out bags.

We enjoyed the Lenten services during Holy Week provided by Pastor Matt. They were beautiful and inspirational. Pastor Matt took the following week off to rest up after such a busy Holy Week.

A special thank you to Diane Weaver, Jeanne Rivercomb and Pastor Matt for providing the sunrise service breakfast. Easter Sunday was well attended with 103 people at the 10:30 service receiving the love of Christ.
He is risen indeed!

United Methodist Women

by Sharon Johnson

United Methodist Women Sunday will be on May 5. The 2018 Special Women's Mission Recognition Award will be presented during the worship service and a special "Memories" poem written by Cindi Reeves will be read by her. There will also be special music by Soloist Greg Huffman and refreshments will be served following worship.

The **UMW's Spring Banquet** will be held on **FRIDAY, May 17 at 6:30 p.m.** Our theme this year is "*Memories*". After a delicious dinner,

In other news, Pastor Stacy will be returning to our church in May after being interim pastor in Baltimore, Ohio. We wish him well as he enters the next chapter in his life in ministry.

We would like to thank Belinda Paisley for singing at the sunrise service.

Lydia Circle

by Carol Butt

The May meeting of the Lydia Circle will meet in the home of Carol Butt on Wednesday, May 15 at 10 a.m. Members are reminded to bring an article for the Shoebox Ministry. Bible Study will resume. For more information contact Carol Butt at 740-967-9681.

we will show a video and enjoy special music entertainment by **Johnny Steiner**. Tickets are **\$10 for Adults** and **\$5 for children ages 12 and under**. Please purchase your tickets **NO LATER THAN Monday, May 13** by calling Sharon Johnson at 740-967-7771 or the office at 740-967-6691.

Graduation Sunday will be on May 19. There will be refreshments following worship.

Thanks to everyone who supported our annual Nut Sale this year.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



Church Finance Ministry Update by Matt Dole, Finance Chair

You can rest assured that we take the responsibility of our task very seriously.

This is my first newsletter update since taking over for Ron as chair of the Finance committee. We have, over the course of the last few months greatly expanded our financial team, which I believe can only pay dividends long term for the church. Ron is the treasurer of the church and will continue tracking the financials and accounts – both church and rental accounts. **Chad Lattimer** was appointed Financial Secretary where he'll take an increased roll in the weekly count and tracking accounts in the financial software. And I've taking the helm of the finance committee, which has representatives of other committees and meets monthly to review the financials in detail and to address any on-going or new requests.

You can rest assured that we take the responsibility of our task very seriously. Each member of the finance committee gets copies of balance sheets, profit and loss statements and full lists of transactions each month. Committee members come to the meeting and invariably have questions about accounts and even individual transactions. That's very good stewardship.

We also discuss additional potential projects. As you know, over the last year there has been a lot of focus on improving rental properties. The finance committee was deeply involved in making sure the money was there to cover the various projects in order to get the properties fully rented and generated income again. We are there and that's great for our church!

Now we're looking ahead to other projects and how to fund them. They can range from the small, changing the door on Pastor Matt's office to confirm with the best practice of having a window, to the large – working with the trustees on a plan to raise funds for the repair and re-paving of our parking lot. You should note that we are at a spot where there's not a lot of savings money that can be used for future projects. We're at a spot where we have to pay-as-we-go, or we have to develop plans to raise additional funds. Thankfully, with the expanded financial team and an active finance committee we're in a place to be able to pray about and discuss solutions that we can bring to the church.

You can expect to hear from us soon about various efforts. We plan to be very transparent moving forward. We'll use this space in the newsletter, speaking during Sunday service and even offering additional opportunities for the church to hear about fundraising plans as they develop.

One final note – As stated above, we've managed to split what Ron Carr was doing, single-handedly, into three roles – Treasurer, where Ron will continue to serve, Financial Secretary and Finance Chair. **Ron deserves our thanks for carrying the financial responsibilities largely alone for so long.** We're glad he's not going anywhere, but we're happy also to try to take a little of the burden off his plate.

If you want to know more about the state of our Church finances, please feel free to contact one of the following people:

Matt Dole - mattdole@gmail.com

Chad Lattimer - cml43140@yahoo.com

Ron Carr - jumcfinance@twc.com



(Thoughts from the Senior Pastor, continued from page 1)

In short, we are moving quickly to enable the Laity of our church to have more and better input in the leadership, decision-making, and running of Johnstown United Methodist Church. If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please, please, please let me know. As your Pastor, I am here for you, and more than anything (well, most anything, as your relationship with Jesus is the first priority), I want you to have confidence in your church, and the next chapter in its future.

Remember that this is your church, and as your church, you DO have a say in what goes on. It is my earnest desire to be as transparent as possible when it comes to the decisions that are made, so again, if you have questions, just ask. All that being said, I am very excited to see that we have people from our pews who are willing to become active within the church. Further, since we now have some “new blood” in the pool of resources, perhaps this might be a good time for some of you who have served in the past to re-enter the waters of service.

I know that this is not the standard article that you are used to having from me, but I felt that it was important for you to know what is going on within the church. All of us are doing what we do for the same purpose—to *grow the Kingdom of God, make disciples for the transformation of the world, and to love, support, and care for our community of Johnstown, Ohio.* With God’s help, this will not only be possible, but a great success.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 (NRSV)

Featured Committee of the Month:

Worship Committee

The Johnstown United Methodist Church Worship Committee is responsible for planning the content and flow of our worship services. The members gather quarterly to discuss how to decorate the church, select music, plan for the sacrament of Holy Communion, and determine the need for special services, for example nightly during Holy Week. Sermon topics are discussed, along with any particular Scriptural emphasis that needs to be considered. The committee is chaired by Terry Priest, and works in consultation with the Altar Guild and Senior Pastor. Should you have thoughts about, or concerns with, our worship services, please contact the church office, so that this information can be communicated with the appropriate contact person(s).



Caring Ministry

by Carol Butt, Coordinator

Bereavement Ministry

Contact: Sharon Johnson • 740-967-7771

The Bereavement Committee was not called upon in the month of April.

Greeting Card Ministry

Contact: Shirley Hendren • 740-967-6142

Shirley Hendren, Card Chair has mailed one card from the 18th of March thru the 26th of April. If you know of anyone needing a Get-Well, Thinking of You or Sympathy card within our Church family please let Shirley know. If you don't notify her about an illness, etc. she won't know to send a card.

Meals Ministry

Contact: Carol Butt • 740-967-9681

The Meal Ministry was not utilized during the month of April.

Prayer Ministry

*Contact: Carol Butt • 740-967-9681 or
Ella Brown • 740-966-3162*

Anyone in need of a few extra prayers, call Carol Butt or Ella Brown to have the requests passed onto the chains. There were 6 prayer requests from the 18th of March thru the 26th of April. Prayers are powerful and when we pray in groups, even so much more.

Shut-In Ministry

Contact: Pastor Stacy • 740-331-0205

The members of the Shut In Visitation Teams have been visiting some of our shut-ins over the winter months, when weather permitted. Thank you to Charon Wright, Connie Ryan and Peggy Dearth, Ella Brown and Charlotte Berkley, Shirley Hendren and Emma Lou Rhyan for their willingness to serve and visit our members who are housebound or in a care facility

Birthdays

Steve Montgomery	5/01	Betty Hoover	5/15
Evelyn Hardesty	5/04	Paula Evans	5/16
Allen Reeves	5/06	Madison Engelbert	5/17
Timothy Risdon	5/07	Carole Howell	5/19
Adam Brooks	5/10	Grady Mason	5/24
Karen Beach	5/13	Pastor Stacy Evans	5/26
Joseph Robertson	5/13	Bill Smith	5/26
Kevin Fleshman	5/14	Fred Babbert	5/30
Mitchell Montgomery	5/14	Bubba Wentworth	5/31

Anniversaries

Andrew & Kelly Smith	5/07
Jack & Lisa Stiles	5/11
James & Rebecca Sarosy	5/17
Claudia Van Winkle	5/26
Todd & Addy Schreiber	5/30

Altar Flowers

Two vases • \$40

(Please specify if you want one \$30 arrangement)

Make checks payable to JUMC
with "Altar Flowers" written in the memo.

Johnstown/Northridge

Food Pantry

PLEASE DONATE!

All donations are appreciated!

Little Friendly Food Box

Doug & Deb Shull are charge of the
Little Friendly Food Box for May.
Thanks to all for donations!



Who's in the Pew? Peggy Dearth

by Mary Thomas

Peggy Dearth, the daughter of Dick and Charlene Dietzel, grew up in Johnstown where she enjoyed life with her siblings and friends. Wintertime's cold brought much fun near her home on Rt. 37 where there were frozen ponds for ice skating and hills to sled down. Friends joined in making it even more enjoyable. She babysat when the opportunity arose. In high school, she was a cheerleader. Always interested in older folks, she was a Teen Aide, a group that Mary E. Babcock organized, which visited the Northview nursing home. She was on the National Honor Society, a drummer in the band, and in the choir. During the summer, she worked in Jim Ashbrook's insurance office doing secretarial work.



High School was over and on to higher education choosing Columbus LPN and attaining a practical nursing license. Always enjoying fellowship with older people, she is now the owner of the Bennington Nursing, Rehabilitation, and Assisted Living facility in Marengo.

Peggy, a widow, makes her home on Main Street in Johnstown. She loves to travel and does so often. She has a condo in Jupiter, Florida. She enjoys reading, swimming, boating, fishing, kayaking, shooting guns, painting, and has taken up rug hooking.

Peggy raised two daughters. Beth lives in Seattle, Washington and has two sons. An OSU graduate in journalism, she now teaches photography. Cara graduated from Bowling Green State University and lives in Florida. She is an admissions coordinator at a health care facility. Cara has one daughter. So Peggy enjoys traveling from one side of the country to the other visiting her daughters and their families.

Remember Our Shut Ins

- Carolyn Bailey** • Send Carolyn's mail to: 118 S. Main St., Johnstown, OH 43031
- Gary Banyay** • Brookdale Chestnut Hill, 5055 Thompson Rd., #306, Columbus, OH 43230
Send Gary's mail to: 409 Clark Dr., Johnstown, OH 43031
- Smith Clark** • Sharon Brooke Senior Living, 920 Sharon Valley Rd., #112, Newark, OH 43055
- Booty Hammond** • c/o Vicky Hilton, 3159 Maginn Dr., Beavercreek, OH 45434
- Marjorie Heimerl** • Kendal at Granville, 2158 Columbus Rd., Granville, OH 43023
Send Marge's mail to: 11220 Worthington Rd., Pataskala, OH 43062
- Addie Huff** • Brookdale Chestnut Hill, 5055 Thompson Rd., #202, Columbus, OH 43230
- Mary Kearns** • 222 Antrim St., Pickerington, OH 43147
- Carolyn Loggins** • 133 W. Jersey St., Johnstown, OH 43031
- Irene Long** • The Inn at Summit Trail, 8115 Summit Rd., #406, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Send Irene's mail to: 310 Oak Meadows Dr., Pataskala, OH 43062
- Gayle McBee** • Send Gayle's mail to: 39 Central Station Place, Johnstown, OH 43031
- Eva Nell Reed** • Bennington Glen, 825 State Route 61, Marengo, Ohio 43334



A Riddle About Squirrels

submitted by Karen Norman

Five squirrels were sitting on a branch. One of them decided to jump off. How many squirrels were left?

Was your answer four? If so, you'd be wrong. You assumed that just because one squirrel DECIDED to jump off, it followed through and acted on its decision.

Unfortunately, there's a big difference between deciding to do something and actually doing it. True for this squirrel, and sadly, true of what many people do in the workplace every day.

Think about it. As a leader, how many times have you made a decision to take action on an issue, only to second-guess yourself or get sidetracked by other priorities? Ultimately, just because it's easier, or by plain ol' default, you procrastinate and end up taking the path of least resistance, which is "do nothing" and "hope for the best". Occasionally, the damage from inaction is minimal, but more commonly, the problem or issue gets worse.



Be aware of your decision making process over the next few days. The next time you make a management (or personal) decision, monitor yourself to see how long it takes you to put that decision into action. If it's longer than 24 hours, then you're being the squirrel! Quit being a squirrel!

thank you 😊

Karen Norman

for organizing the **Open Door Clothes Closet** held on April 20, 2019. We were able to help 28 people. A donation of \$14.50 will be given to missions.

May Altar Flowers

May 5

Terry & Joyce Priest
*in honor of their daughters,
Amy & Abby's birthdays.*

May 12

Chip & Vicki Dutcher
in memory of their parents.

May 19

Charon Wright
in memory of Moe.

May 26

Todd & Rhonda Dodderer



May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Choir 7:30 pm</i>	2 <i>Biblical Journey's B.S. 10:30 am</i>	3 <i>AA Meeting 8 pm</i>	4
5 <i>UMW Sunday Fellowship & Refreshments BUILD of LC 3 pm</i>	6 <i>CCL 7 pm Trustees 7:30 pm</i>	7 <i>Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm</i>	8 <i>Choir 7:30 pm</i>	9 <i>UMW 10:30 am Finance 7:30 pm</i>	10 <i>AA Meeting 8 pm</i>	11
12	13	14 <i>Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm</i>	15 <i>Lydia Circle 10 am Choir 7:30 pm</i>	16 <i>Biblical Journey's B.S. 10:30 am</i>	17 <i>UMW Banquet 6:30 pm AA Meeting 8 pm</i>	18
19 <i>Graduation Sunday Fellowship & Refreshments</i>	20	21 <i>Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm</i>	22 <i>Leadership Council 7:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm</i>	23 <i>Biblical Journey's B.S. 10:30 am</i>	24 DEADLINE for JUNE Newsletter Article <i>AA Meeting 8 pm</i>	25
26	27	28 <i>Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm</i>	29 <i>Choir 7:30 pm</i>	30 <i>Biblical Journey's B.S. 10:30 am</i>	31 <i>AA Meeting 8 pm</i>	

Johnstown UMC
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Johnstown, OH 43031

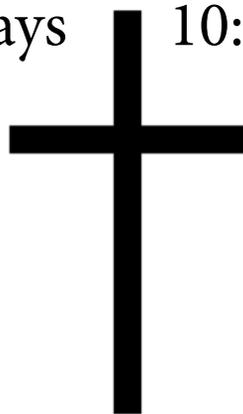
Email: jumcoffice159@gmail.com
Website: www.johnstownumc.com
Office Hours: 8:15am-Noon, M-Th
Phone: 740.967.6691

Postage



“Together, let us make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!”

Johnstown United Methodist Church
Sundays 10:30 a.m.



The Connection

May 2019