



The Johnstown United Methodist Church

March 2019

The **Connection**



There has been much speculation as to the results of the Special General Conference, held in Saint Louis, for the purpose of determining a Way Forward for the denomination, with respect to the issue of human sexuality. First, let me say that regardless of what has taken place, it is important to remember that the **MINISTRY OF THE JOHNSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WILL NOT CHANGE!**

As an observer in attendance at the specially called conference, I can tell you that tension filled the air from Saturday's opening worship, to the closing of the plenary session on Tuesday. Things that I witnessed brought sadness and grieving to my heart, as our sisters and brothers fought with each other, often in quite vindictive ways. We are a church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, to bring love, acceptance, non-judgment, and forgiveness to the world, regardless of who you are, or what you believe. Unfortunately this was not what I observed in Saint Louis.

Regardless of how you personally believe when it comes to sexual and life preferences, we are obligated to spend time listening to all sides, giving equal voice to opposing parties. Again, this was not the case. Once one group was able to secure a controlling vote, they seemed to remove all possible avenues for their opposition to speak. However I truly regret saying things like winners and losers, because given what was presented to the world through the medial coverage, the entire denomination lost—we lost respect, standing, and a little part of our Christ-derived humanity.

I want you to remember, as I stated earlier, that ministry in our local church will not change. The results of the Special General Conference will have no bearing on our ability to minister to the local community; nor will it hinder our effectiveness in being the hands and feet of Jesus to the hungry, naked, sick, imprisoned, or afraid.

We need to rise above any temptation to judge the individual acts of others, or the tendency to lump all traditionalists or progressives into extreme categories. The fact of the matter is that each group acted according to their interpretation of Holy Scripture, and in line with their personal convictions. What is unfortunate is that this debate could have taken place in the spirit of love, instead of becoming a venue for punitive vendettas.

Friends, there is no room in God's Church for people who place themselves in the seat of judgment, which is reserved for the Lord alone. For this reason, I implore you to show compassion toward anyone who believes differently than you do, and offer them the respect and dignity that you, yourself, hope to enjoy.

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In the end, it will be many years before the results of this Special General Conference are determined, as they relate to the overall health of our denomination. In the short term, there will be laity, clergy, churches, and even conferences, which choose to leave the United Methodist denomination. The ramifications of this will carry across our connection, causing erosion to our ability to effectively minister in the United States, as well as globally. General agencies, as well as bishops and remaining conferences will need to pause for a moment, and as they regroup, determine how best to serve their areas of responsibility. In West Ohio we are quite fortunate to have a bishop who is committed to keeping intact our United Methodist traditions and organization. With his leadership, I am confident that we, as a conference, will be able to rise above the words of hate found in Saint Louis, and provide the necessary ministry, which we have thus far provided, to our parishes and communities.

As far as our future here in Johnstown, well, it is up to us to continue in a forward direction, and not become distracted by this prolonged and sometimes bitter fight. I therefore encourage you to spend time in prayer; prayer for our denomination, prayer for our bishop and conference, prayer for our superintendent and district, prayer for our community of Johnstown, and prayer for your pastor and our local church. Pray that the Will of God might be made known through the actions of the faithful, and that the strength of the Holy Spirit might guide us along the correct path.

Remember, it was not long ago that we experienced similar division due to racism and sexism; with many not wanting people of color in the church, or women in the pulpit. In both of these situations, grace prevailed; my prayer is that in our current one, grace will likewise become our rallying cry.

Love your neighbor, and offer them Christ. It is time to rise above internal conflict, and come together as a united body, and become once more the embodiment of our denominational mantra. Let us concentrate on ***making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

Please pray with me:

God of life, and Author of eternal Salvation: We give you thanks for all the blessings that we have enjoyed, even to this day. Over the last week, if not the last several decades, we as a Church have been divided over issues of social justice. Help us to heal from any wounds that we might have suffered as a result of this disagreement, and forgive us for any unjust or unkind acts of which we may have been a part. Give to the leadership of our denomination the wisdom and discernment to follow your Will, and the strength and determination to carry it out. Bless our brothers and sisters who hurt this day, and give to them a renewed hope that tomorrow will be better than today. In all of this we ask for an overwhelming dose of your grace, so that we ourselves might become true purveyors of the gospel message, which declares the glory of the living Christ. In all of this we pray that He may be the center of, and inspiration for our living. To this end, we offer our prayer for the unity of the Church in the

Pastor [Signature]



MIDWEST MISSION
DISTRIBUTION CENTER
midwestmission.org



by Mary Thomas

The United Methodist Mission Warehouse is located in Pawnee, Illinois which is just south of Springfield. There are several buildings on the grounds. There is a large work building with lots of work tables. People from United Methodist churches go there for a day, week, or whatever, to sew, mend, repair, and sort and pack items. The day I was there, ladies were packing a huge box with washcloths and a man was repairing a piece of equipment. There are trucks to haul filled boxes for shipment. There is a dormitory for those who stay for a bit and there is an area for campers. Food is available for those who come to work. A most interesting building houses a nice sized gift shop. The items inside are from missions around the world. Costume jewelry, ceramic items, and a variety of things are for sale.

Among the items needed for shipment are school bags, layette gowns for premature babies, hospital gowns for children, and the like. The ladies told me that the materials for the clothing items can be of any material fit for clothing. Cotton flannel can be used for the premie gowns as many of these items go to mountain areas of Central America. The school bags need to be of heavier material.

These bags are filled with school items before being sent. The items are not hard to make but I have about run out of yard goods so if you have some piled in a corner of a closet, let me know as they probably could be used. Also, Constance Carr, Barbara Fleshman, and I have patterns that we can share.

Where do these things get shipped to? They go to missions upon request. Last year, there were 22 international shipments: Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Uganda. There were 166 domestic shipments: Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. This was 549,205 pounds with a value of \$4,393,640.

If you desire more information, punch in midwestmission.org or write to Midwest Mission Distribution Center, 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558.

So, if you have chance to go west, be sure to visit the Lincoln Museum (very, very educational) in Springfield and then go south a bit to the warehouse. You will not regret it.



Church Finance Ministry Update *by Ron Carr, Finance Chair*

Current Balance Summary of Accounts as of February 28, 2019.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Savings Accounts</u>	<u>Investments Fund</u>	<u>Rental Account</u>
\$300	\$80,100	\$265,700	\$6,500



Note: All amounts are rounded to the nearest \$100. The Treasurer will report the status of the church finances monthly in the newsletter. If you have any questions regarding the finances of the church, please contact Ron Carr, treasurer, at jumcfinance@twc.com or 740-973-4112.

1. **General Fund-** Giving for the first eight Sundays of this year has averaged \$2,088 per Sunday. We have received a lump sum annual contribution from members with a net value of \$20,154, which was transferred to our General Fund Reserve account for use throughout the year for general expenses. This fund was used in February to supplement the regular offering with \$5,200 to make up the difference between giving and expenses. The expenses have averaged \$4,340 per week. We also spent any carryover balance in the general fund from the beginning of the year. The renovation of the rental house at 31 S. College St is complete and the appliances and some window treatments have been purchased. General Fund giving has been lower than average this month due to the inclement weather and lower than normal attendance. General expenses are also down this month and more in line with the budget.

2. **Rental Fund-** All three of the rental units are now occupied. The unit at 31 College St. is occupied as of the beginning of March. All current expenses, including first-half taxes, annual insurance and payments for construction costs have been paid from the rental funds.

3. **Savings & Investment Funds-** Our goal this year is to minimize the draw on the savings accounts and try to build them back up. The Investment Funds (listed below) reflect the end of 2018 balances and includes both the Building Fund (Wright Fund) and the Capital Fund (House Sale Fund). Each of these funds are being tracked and managed separately. The Investment Funds lost about \$5,000 from the opening balances for the 2018 year and are representative of the general market values that have declined from the beginning of 2018.

4. **Forecast for 2019-** The Church Council has passed a revision to the 2019 budget which projects a weekly giving need of \$2,823. This will be a challenge for us, but the benefits in our missional outreach to the community will produce results that address the needs we see around us. This giving level will also prevent the need to draw on our savings accounts to meet current spending.

5. **Our new church software** (called *Servant Keeper*©) is up and running. It was used to generate the 2018 giving statements which you have now received, and is used to track weekly giving. We expect to send quarterly giving statements to all donors. The financial portion of the software is in place and operational. We are now focusing on the membership database portion so we can start utilizing some of the many features available in the software, including emailing communications and creating church directories. Please make sure the church office has your current contact information, and especially a current email address for your family.

The Finance Committee is moving forward this year with new leadership - Welcome to Matt Dole as the new Financial Committee Chair, and to Chad Lattimer as our new Financial Secretary. We have three volunteers for counters on Sunday morning, but can always use additional help so that we can create a schedule and rotate the duties so that any one person does not have to stay after church every Sunday.

- **Counters:** We would like to have two individuals each Sunday to count and record the offering and make the deposit at Heartland Bank drop box. This takes less than 20 minutes each Sunday, and no special skills are required (training is

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Trustees Report

by Mary Thomas

The house at 31 College is now rented and the contract is for a year! Much effort was put into this renovation. There is a drainage problem at the parsonage but it cannot be done until the ground thaws and digging can be done.

The scholarship collection box is now two boxes and they are fastened down metal ones. Security is being worked on and Pastor Matt is getting ideas and bids on that. At the present, securing the secretary's office is important and that can possibly be done with a doorbell which can be a picture signal on the office computer screen. The door then can be locked. Cameras can be installed at the front door and at the upper ramp door. The other doors are kept locked before the church service. Remember that in case of emergency, you can always get out if you are on the inside but be sure to slam the door and check to make sure that it locked. Plans are still being made on the security project but you should see some activity soon.

The Trustees are well aware of the potholes in the parking lot. Chip is waiting for warm weather when he can get bids on the matter. It will be costly. Matt Dole is working on fundraising plans for this. Because of the cost, it will not get done immediately. (Unless you win the multi-million dollar lottery and donate big-time!)

Lydia Circle

by Carol Butt

The ladies of Lydia Circle will resume their meetings in March. Date will be announced. The time is still 10 a.m. Members are reminded to bring an item to give to our Community Food Pantry. Personal hygiene items such as shampoo, deodorant, Kleenex, soap, toothpaste or lotion etc. are welcome. Bible Study or stories are given each month. From the Book Places of The Bible the March meeting will read and discuss "Jesus and The Passion" as well as "Paul and The Apostles" Members are requested to bring their Bibles. These two study topics will be partially covered.

Church Finance Ministry Update

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provided). We would like to have four individuals to share the responsibility by working in pairs and rotating from week to week. Please let me know if you can help.

As required by our U.M. Church Discipline, each of the positions on the finance team must be filled by a different person to maintain strict adherence to proper audit policies and procedures. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Matt Dole, Ron Carr, Pastor Matt, or any member of the Finance Committee for more information. A big THANK YOU to those who have stepped forward to help with these tasks.

Thanks to all who have provided the resources we need to operate our church. Please continue to support God's church with your God-given time, talents, and resources, and help to further our mission in this community; Help to ***"Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world"***.

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

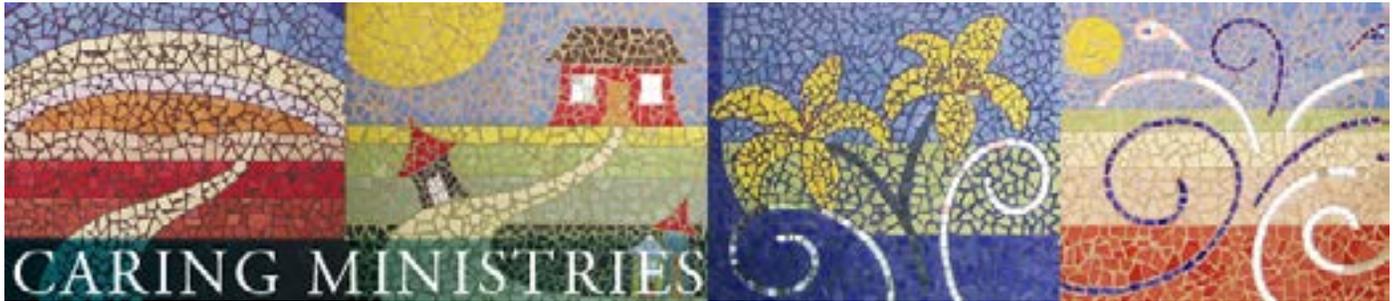
PLEASE DONATE!

All donations are appreciated!

Little Friendly Food Box

The Trustees are in charge of the Little Friendly Food Box for March.

Thanks to all for donations!



by Carol Butt, Coordinator

Bereavement Ministry

Contact: Sharon Johnson • 740-967-7771

There were no Bereavement dinners during the month of February.

Greeting Card Ministry

Contact: Shirley Hendren • 740-967-6142

During the month of February, ten cards were mailed to the Shut-Ins. This included Valentines as well as Thinking of You, Get Well or Sympathy cards. Please contact Shirley Hendren if you know of anyone in need. Sometimes cards are the best day brightener; their cheerful verses very often puts a smile on faces.

Meals Ministry

Contact: Carol Butt • 740-967-9681

Shirley Hendren, Charlotte Bemiller, Mary Jane Dodrill and Crystal McFellin supplied a meal to Chad and Sara Lattimer at the end of February. Members of this committee serve sometimes with a one- day notice. You can work in groups, pairs or alone to provide a meal for members. Contact Carol Butt if you are interested in helping on this committee. A meal is provided once a day for 1 to 3 days. Anyone returning home from the hospital or a rehab facility can call on committee members.

Prayer Ministry

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

There were 7 Prayer Requests last month. This committee may not always know if someone is ill or recuperating. Please contact Carol Butt if you wish to place someone on the Prayer Chain. You may either leave her a message or contact Ella Brown.

Shut-In Ministry

Contact: Pastor Stacy • 740-331-0205

Shut-In visitations during the months of January-February 2019 were sporadic. The weather played a big part in visitations. Shut-In Volunteers are busy planning their scheduled visitations for March, April and May. Members who serve on this committee are required to visit a Shut-In once a quarter, and the visitations are whenever you select them to be. Thank you to all of our volunteers whom have done such a great job in visiting are Shut-Ins. Anyone interested in joining the Shut-In Ministry please contact Carol Butt or Pastor Stacy Evans. Visitors always bring a bright spot into anyone's day.



Who's in the Pew? Robert and Polly Garee

by Mary Thomas

Bob and Polly Garee built a house in Concord Crossing and ran Marco Plumbing which was located where the police station now is. After a few years, they moved to Florida where they lived for several years. They kept their house in Johnstown and returned on vacations and were seen in the church whenever they returned for holidays and such. Their last home in Florida was destroyed by a hurricane so they decided it was time to retire and head to Johnstown.

Polly was born in West Virginia but the family moved to Columbus and spent time between the two places. She attended school in Columbus and graduated from North High School. She enjoyed intramural sports while in school. She then graduated from cosmetology school. Over the years, she has been involved with alumni gatherings for North High School. She served as a secretary and treasurer of Marco Plumbing. Her hobby is dogs. She once helped rescue them. The Garees now enjoy two dachshunds. Polly has two grown children from a previous marriage, Kim and Daniel. She has four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bob grew up near the county line and graduated from Big Walnut High School. He enjoyed being in the Hot Rod Club. At age 13, he worked milking a dairy herd. He apprenticed in a machine shop dealing with hydraulic pumps. His next job was as a counselor at an employment agency. He learned about construction when he worked on building a house. The next work experience was at a plumbing and heating supply house. He then became a plumbing and heating contractor purchasing agent and moved to the position of executive vice-president of the company. After six years at that position, he purchased stock in Marco and took over the company for twenty years. In 2003, he decided to move to Naples, Florida and was employed as a building inspector. Bob served on the church trustee committee for several years while living in Johnstown.

A widower at a young age, he is the father of two sons, Brian and Mike. He has six grandchildren. His son, Mike operates a store on the square in Sunbury called Big Walnut XXL Apparel.

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

Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| Nancy Banyay | 3/02 |
| Melita Risdon | 3/05 |
| Ramona Sifford | 3/09 |
| Bob Peloquin | 3/10 |
| Shirley Hendren | 3/12 |
| Cathy Smith | 3/12 |
| Ann Montgomery | 3/17 |
| Cheryl Robertson | 3/17 |
| Smith Clark | 3/20 |
| Alayna Brooks | 3/23 |
| Rebecca Sarosy | 3/24 |
| Ken Smith | 3/25 |
| Karen Montgomery | 3/28 |

Anniversaries

- Brian & Heather Bemiller
3/11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>March</u>					1 8 pm AA Meeting	2
3	4 7 pm CCL 7:30 Trustees	5 10:30 am Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 8 pm AA Meeting	6  ASH WEDNESDAY 7:30 pm	7	8 8 pm AA Meeting	9
10	11	12 10:30 am Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 8 pm AA Meeting	13 7:30 pm Choir	14 10:30 am UMW 7:30 pm Finance	15 8 pm AA Meeting	16
17	18	19 10:30 am Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 8 pm AA Meeting	20 7:30 pm Choir	21	22 8 pm AA Meeting	23
24	25 DEADLINE for April Newsletter Article	26 10:30 am Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 8 pm AA Meeting	27 7:30 pm Choir	28	29 8 pm AA Meeting	30
31						

March Altar Flowers

March 3

Dan & Margie West

March 10

Marcella Rupp, in memory of her father, Lewis Williams

March 17

Dan & Margie West

March 24

Peggy Dearth & Connie Ryan, in memory of Dick Dietzel

March 31

Dan & Margie West

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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 • 10:30am**



TheConnection

MARCH 2019