



The Johnstown United Methodist Church  
**April 2019**  
*The* **Connection**



Spring is in the air, and summer is around the bend. It is that time of year again, when we prepare for Easter Sunday, and the following weeks of the Easter Season. For many this is an opportunity to gather with friends and family, eat and fellowship together, and watch the little ones, as they scurry about after eggs, which have been so lovingly scattered throughout the yard. Similarly, in the church, we too, look forward to this time of year as an opportunity to gather together for worship, fellowship, and food.

Soon we will be observing Palm/Passion Sunday, which precedes Holy Week; a time wherein we prepare most ardently for the Easter celebration. What I would like to talk about however, is what happens during that week to allow us to best appreciate the following Sunday. It is during Holy Week, which begins on Palm/Passion Sunday, when Jesus enters triumphantly into the city of Jerusalem. Once in the city, He engages immediately in the acts of cleansing the Temple, challenging the religious authorities, and teaching the multitudes about the grace and love of God.

On Holy (or Maundy) Thursday, we find Jesus in the upper room, celebrating the Passover meal with His disciples, a time during which He institutes Holy Communion as a Sacrament for the Church. Later that night He prays in the garden of Gethsemane, just prior to being arrested by the Jewish authority. Friday finds our Savior being rushed through a series of “show trials,” only to end up being convicted and sentenced to death. Crucifixion comes next, along with Peter’s denial of Jesus; all before Jesus’ body is laid in a tomb.

Each of these things must take place, in order for the scriptures to be fulfilled; each of these things, likewise, plays an important role in the development of the Church, which is to say that they are necessary for the resurrection to take place, which is the single most significant event in history.

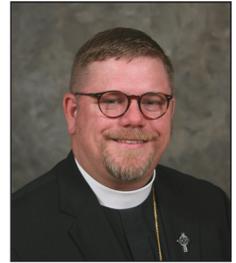
Proper preparation for Easter, by observing a Holy Lent, makes the resurrection come alive for the believer; and so it is highly suggested that during Holy Week you engage in meaningful worship and devotion. That means even if you have failed to read devotionals, pray daily, or even come to worship each Sunday; by engaging your spiritual self during Holy Week, your mind, body, and soul will be in a position to receive the gifts of God, which come on Easter morning. Remember that Jesus IS the way, truth, and life! Therefore do what you can and must to enjoy eternal life, after all, it begins in Jesus, and never ends in you.

*Pastor Mau*



# Pastor's Blog

by Pastor Matt



Palm Sunday is fast approaching, and we are faced with a recurring question... What should I do with the palm branch after the service is over? Some people choose to dry them, or hang them on their wall, as a reminder of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem; or as a reminder of when Jesus entered their heart, and they became a Christian in the true sense of the word. However, have you ever wondered what the church does with them? The palms that are left over after the service are collected, dried, and then burnt. The ashes are used the following year during the Ash Wednesday service. In fact, I have a jar in my office, which is full of ashes, collected from the various churches that I have served. Because of this practice, each year on Ash Wednesday, the congregation I serve becomes a part of the ongoing legacy and tradition, which begins the Lenten season.

So, I would encourage you to give thought to the greater purpose of the palms, and embrace their significance. In doing so, perhaps a new meaning for them will be discovered for you. In the end, however, know that they ultimately represent the true nature of Jesus Christ; for He is the beginning and the end; the first and the last. In other words, His life is cyclical, in that it begins, ends, and begins again in you. Yet their dual-purpose meaning should not be the only reason that we see them in church. It is, in fact, their primary use, namely to remind us of the beginning of Holy Week, that should be the most significant.

Holy Week begins with Jesus entering Jerusalem, celebrated as a king, and escorted into the city, with all the fanfare of a modern day celebrity. Soon, however, the crowds of people begin to turn on Jesus, becoming very hostile by the end of the week. This is a stark contrast, when compared with the preceding Sunday. Perhaps the palm branches should remind us of how easy it is to turn our backs on Jesus when His ways contradict our understanding of life. After all, to follow Jesus; to be a disciple of Christ; is to abandon our old way of thinking, and place God as the true head of our house, and sole purpose of our life.

This is hard, which is why it is important to have reminders, like the palm branches, that can help to keep our focus on Jesus well beyond Easter, especially if they are incorporated into our daily life. Maybe you could place your palm branch near the location in your house where daily prayer is accomplished; or locate it where it might be seen when you get up in the morning. What is important, is that regardless of where you keep your palm branch, or what you do with it, its meaning should be sealed upon your heart. Jesus is your king, your redeemer, and your savior. Let the palm branch remind you of where that process all began. After all, without Palm Sunday, and Holy Week, we would have a more difficult time understanding the journey to the cross.



## SPRC Report

by Cindi Reeves

The SPRC committee met on March 27. We discussed some items that Pastor Matt had on his agenda. One of the exciting things that will be happening is a door to door campaign in Leafy Dell and Concord Crossing in April. Flyers and bookmarks and information about our church and Easter will be shared with people. This is an important outreach. The Youth For Christ under the direction of Sharon Babbert will be helping with this effort. If you would like to help please contact Pastor Matt.

All evaluations were completed and filed in the church office.

The pastor has begun the new Bible Study on Thursdays about world religions. It has been well-attended. The Tuesday Bible Study is continuing with the book of John leading up to Holy Week. Remember that this year during holy week we will be having a short service each evening. Thursday we will have the Maundy Thursday service with communion in the Upper Room and also a Good Friday service as well. We will be having a sunrise service and a breakfast which the pastor has graciously told us he will donate. Please invite neighbors and friends to attend any of these events.

As always if you have any questions concerning the pastor or recent activities, please contact anyone from SPRC or the Pastor. We feel fortunate to have Pastor Matt working so hard for our church.

*Blessings, Cindi Reeves SPRC Chairman*



Monday, April 15, 7:30 pm • *Eucharist Service*

Tuesday, April 16, 7:30 pm • *Eucharist Service*

Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 pm • *Eucharist Service*

Thursday, April 18, 7:30 pm • *Upper Room Communion Service*

Friday, April 19, 7:30 pm • *Devotional Service*

Sunday, April 21, 7:00 am • *Easter Sunrise Service*

Sunday, April 21, 10:30 am • *Easter Traditional Service*



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

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

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Savings Accounts</u>	<u>Investments Fund</u>	<u>Rental Account</u>
\$100	\$77,500	\$268,700	\$8,000



Note: All amounts are rounded to the nearest \$100. These totals do not include the March 31st offering. 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](mailto:jumcfinance@twc.com) or 740-973-4112 or any member of the Finance Committee.

### 1. General Fund

Giving for the first twelve Sundays of this year (first quarter results) has averaged \$2,359 per Sunday, not including the lump sum annual contributions from members which were transferred to our General Fund Reserve account for use throughout the year for general expenses. The expenses have averaged \$4,055 per week. We have used \$11,000 from Savings, \$8,000 from the Reserve Fund and \$700 from the carryover balance to make up the difference between giving and expenses. General Fund giving has been lower than average this quarter due to the inclement weather and lower than normal attendance. General expenses have also been higher than the budget for this quarter.

### 2. Rental Fund

All three of the rental units are now occupied. The unit at 31 College St. has been 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 except for the appliances, smoke and C.O. detectors - these will be paid in April and are approximately \$1,800.

### 3. Savings & Investment Funds

Our goal this year it to minimize the draw on the savings accounts and try to build them back up. The Investment Funds balance reflects the end of February 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. Both investment funds continue to see losses in stock value, and they both continue to pay dividends and interest at a rate consistent with the overall stock market.

### 4. Forecast for 2019

The 2019 Budget adopted by the current Church Council 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 reduce the need to draw on our savings accounts to meet current spending and allow us to begin the process of saving for the future.

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. Ron Carr will remain as the church Treasurer. 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.

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".



## Trustees Report

by Mary Thomas

The items for the security system have been purchased and await installation. These will be cameras and a door bell that will show who is outside on the secretary's computer screen. The scholarship boxes are secured. It is required that a door with a window be on the pastor's office so that needs to be done.

Steve Atwood is working on the sound system cabinet. The new equipment will not fit thus he is working on the lid.

Of course, the rain still persists upon getting into the old nursery room in the basement and Bob Garee is working on that problem.

## Lydia Circle

by Carol Butt

The Ladies of Lydia Circle met in the home of Carol Butt on Wednesday, March 13 at 10 am. Roll Call was "What Signs of Spring Have You Seen?" Members donated 18 hygiene items to the Johnstown area Food Pantry for the March meeting. From the book *Places of The Bible* the March study was postponed until April meeting. We will 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 covered. New business for Lydia

Circle members was to provide refreshments for the Hospitality time after morning service on Sunday, March 17. The Ladies of Lydia decided on a St. Patrick's Day theme. The Ladies of Lydia voted to give a donation to our church for the Discretionary Fund. This Fund provides money to be used to help those in need for rent, utilities, gasoline or what emergency may arise in their lives. The next scheduled meeting for Lydia Circle will be Wednesday, April 17th at 10 am in the home of Carol Butt.

### April Altar Flowers

*April 7*

Nancy & Gary Banyay *in honor of their Anniversary.*  
*They were married April 8, 1961.*

*April 14*

Kenny & Shirley Smith, *in memory of*  
*Shirley's parents' birthdays.*

*April 21*

David Mathews *in memory of Linda.*

*April 28*

Dan & Margie West



by Carol Butt, Coordinator

### ***Bereavement Ministry***

Contact: Sharon Johnson • 740-967-7771

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

### ***Greeting Card Ministry***

Contact: Shirley Hendren • 740-967-6142

Shirley Hendren reports that 4 cards were mailed during the month of March. If you know of anyone in need of a Thinking of You, Get Well or Sympathy card please contact Shirley.

### ***Meals Ministry***

Contact: Carol Butt • 740-967-9681

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

### ***Prayer Ministry***

Contact: Carol Butt • 740-967-9681 or

Ella Brown • 740-966-3162

From February 26<sup>th</sup> thru March 18<sup>th</sup> the Committee received two Prayer Chain calls. The Prayer Chain participants are always ready to pass on requests. The people we pray for can be a member of our church family, a friend or people referred to us. If you have an extra 5 minutes a day and would like to join the Prayer Chain, contact Carol Butt at the above number. The more people who join others in prayer, the more powerful the prayers will be.

### ***Shut-In Ministry***

Contact: Pastor Stacy • 740-331-0205

The Shut-In visitation teams have visited our members. Anyone wishing to join a team please contact Carol Butt. Participants are requested to visit our Shut-Ins once every three months. You select the date you wish to visit, and if you want to visit on your own or with a partner.

### **Birthdays**

Dale Purdin	4/02	Lainigh Deering	4/14
Tyler Kohman	4/03	Chloe Peloquin	4/14
Ava Robertson	4/03	Irene Long	4/15
Landon Deering	4/04	Nancy Carr	4/18
Catharine Downing	4/04	Brody Smith	4/19
Vivien Lanthorn	4/05	Garrett Bemiller	4/22
Jane Sarosy	4/05	Kara Keyser	4/22
Daniel Kessler	4/06	Mitchell Montgomery	4/22
Ashley Henney	4/10	Lucas Atwood	4/23
Halleigh Carter	4/11	Fred Hendren	4/29
Jennifer Robertson	4/13	Debra Shaub	4/29

### **Anniversaries**

Gary & Nancy Banyay 4/08

### **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**

Matt Dole is charge of the  
Little Friendly Food Box for April.  
Thanks to all for donations!



## Who's in the Pew? James Van Winkle

by Mary Thomas

James came on the scene December 26, 2006. Welcoming him were his parents, Pastor Matt and Tracy. He lived most of his years in Newark but when school time came, he attended the Heath schools. Moving to Johnstown, he entered the sixth grade at the middle school which he really likes. He is in the sixth grade but takes math in the seventh grade advanced math class. He enjoyed the basketball games this past season. He is learning to play the piano and looks forward to being in the Big Red Band. Like many his age, he is into video games big time and likes playing them on the computer. Most adults would be envious of his keyboard fingering which he was taught in lower grades. He is learning to play golf and loves it and hopes to be part of the school golf team some day. Swimming is another fun activity for him and he plans to spend his time at the West Ohio Conference in the pool.



James likes Johnstown because it is a smaller town and he can get to know people and go to the local restaurants and stores. He thinks the food is especially good. He has not decided what he wants to do when he grows up.

James has pets and may be getting another dog but at this time he has fish, a cat, and a dog. He has done some traveling to places like Puerto Rico, Disney World, Universal Studios, and there is the annual trip to Lakeside. He likes to take pictures of the state signs as he enters each one.

James enjoys time with his grandparents. Claudia Van Winkle lives in the Buckeye Lake area and he likes to play racket ball with her. Jim and Linda Trey live in Belphre.

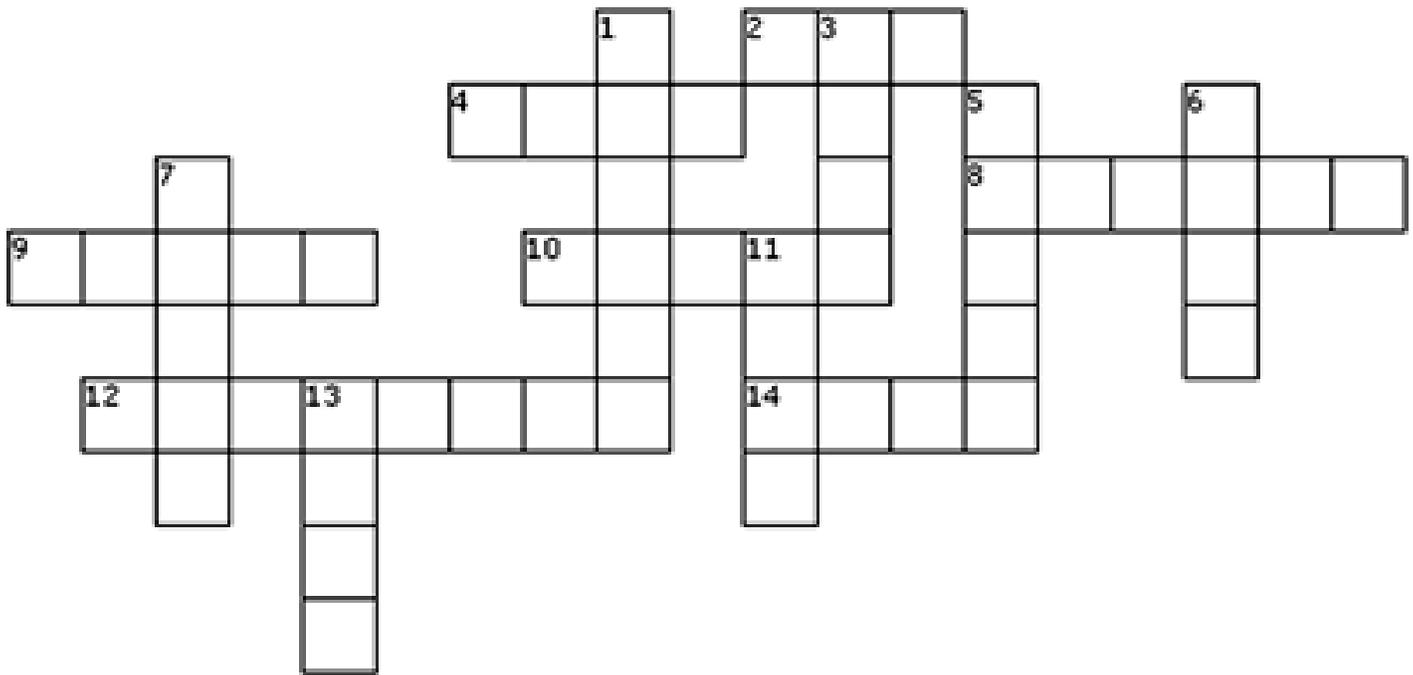
### Remember Our Shut Ins

- 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



# He is not here. He has risen!

Words taken from John 20:1-18 (NIV)



## ACROSS

2. To shed tears
4. The opposite of alive
8. A heavenly being
9. The thing that covered the entrance to Jesus' tomb
10. The color that is the opposite of black
12. A person who takes care of plants and flowers
14. The name of the woman who discovered Jesus' empty tomb

## DOWN

1. The male parent
3. Return to an upright position after lying down; to return from the dead
5. The opposite of late
6. A period of seven days
7. An adult female person
11. A place where someone is buried; another name for grave
13. The opposite of light

## Words Used

early	angels	gardener	rise
week	white	Mary	dead
dark	woman	tomb	stone
cry	father		



# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> CCL 7 pm Trustees 7:30 pm	<b>2</b> Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm	<b>3</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>4</b> Biblical Journey's B.S. 10:30 am	<b>5</b> AA Meeting 8 pm	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> CCL 7 pm	<b>9</b> Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm	<b>10</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>11</b> UMW 10:30 am Finance 7:30 pm	<b>12</b> AA Meeting 8 pm	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  Palm Sunday	<b>15</b> Eucharist Serv. 7:30 pm	<b>16</b> Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm Eucharist Serv. 7:30 pm	<b>17</b> Lydia Circle 10 am Eucharist Serv. 7:30 pm	<b>18</b> Biblical Journey's B.S. 10:30 am Upper Room Communion Serv. 7:30 pm	<b>19</b> Clothes Closet Set Up 9 am Devotional Serv. 7:30 pm AA Meeting 8 pm	<b>20</b>  Clothes Closet Open Door Clothes Closet 9 am to 1 pm
 Easter Sunday Sunrise 7 am Traditional 10:30 am	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm	<b>24</b> <b>DEADLINE for MAY Newsletter Article</b> Choir 7:30 pm	<b>25</b> Biblical Journey's B.S. 10:30 am	<b>26</b> AA Meeting 8 pm	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Barry Hensley's Piano Recital 2 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Faith Exp. @Hot Spot 10:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm				

Johnstown UMC  
159 S. Main Street  
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 • 10:30am



# TheConnection

**April 2019**