

Mount Olivet United Church of Christ



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**I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do,
it's because I missed my exit.**



As we come back together beginning Jan 31st, and for the foreseeable future, with in-person worship and adult and children's Sunday School, we want to go the extra mile in keeping everyone as safe as possible. While still providing what many of you have been missing due to the rise in Coronavirus cases, worshipping as a congregation at Mt. Olivet church on a Sunday morning.

I'd like to lay out the themes for the weeks ahead as we move from winter to spring and into Lent and Easter. Recently, I've started asking you what's your favorite scripture and why? It will take me awhile to get to everyone. Shout out to Julianne Hazlett for inspiring the idea! I believe that to encourage you and/or pray for you as best I can, it's much more personal and powerful through the scripture of your choosing and the story behind it. Obviously, over time, God may put another scripture on your heart (we can update those changes going forward). This exercise will remind all of us to pray, believe and live out our favorite scripture.

In contacting folks, I was asked what are my favorite scriptures were? There's an invitation a preacher can't pass up! I'll present a three-part series following the theme of: Love God, Love Others and Love of Self, applying my favorite scripture in each category. Then, beginning in Lent, we'll work through scriptures that you chose. There have been passages where more than one person has chosen it. We'll focus on those first and see where the Spirit leads as I continue to ask for and collect your favorite scriptures.

I'm anticipating (realizing conditions are subject to change) having our Good Friday and Easter service as we had in the past, with Covid-19 guidelines in place.

One of the multiple chosen scriptures (Joshua 1:9) speaks to being courageous... even when we miss our exit, we will not let fear rule over us, we will not be afraid for God is with us. Pray it, believe it, live it. Let's go the extra mile...with God.

Blessings,

Pastor Michael



February Assignments

Altar Flowers

February 7 – available
February 14 – available
February 21 – available
February 28 – available

Liturgists

February 7 – TBA
February 14 – TBA
February 21 – TBA
February 28 – TBA

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

We do not publish member birthdays in the online edition. If you are a member, contact the office for a full-version copy.



CONSISTORY NEWS by Barb Feaster

Consistory met on January 13th with nine members and Pastor Michael present. Tammie Jones and Dominic Mioni also attended. Pastor Michael filled us in on some things going on around the church. He is currently looking for your favorite Bible verse and why it is your favorite. So, get ready! Several of us have found it more difficult than we thought to narrow it down to just one. He also thanked all the people involved in putting the remote service together for the past few months. The Dispenza family, Spencer and Allyson, Michael Libb, Synthea, Vaughn, and Pastor Michael have worked many hours behind the scenes to bring all of us the church service each week. A really big thanks to Phil Dispenza for taking all the recorded pieces and putting them together, downloading and uploading, and the time involved to make that happen. We are all grateful for their time and talents that bring us the service each week.

Dave Ritter then presented the 2021 budget from the Budget Committee. He explained the adjustments that were made due to Covid 19 closures, and the few things that increased that were mandated changes. The budget was unanimously approved by Consistory and will be voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Thanks to the Budget Committee for their time and talents in developing this bare-bones budget. Also, thanks to Linda for surviving her first year as our new Treasurer. Thank you to Frank for all of his guidance and knowledge, and for continuing to be our Assistant Treasurer. This discussion led to another about how to hold an Annual Meeting and be able to allow people to vote. After some discussion, it was decided that many people were more than ready to reopen, so we will!

Our first Sunday of being open will be Jan. 31st and the Annual Meeting will immediately follow the service. We will continue to diligently follow all of our safety protocols as before, wearing masks, taking temps, social distancing, etc. Our plan is to remain open, so please follow the protocols carefully, stay home if you are not feeling well, and get your vaccine ASAP! I know that we are all looking forward to any part of being normal as soon as we can.

Since this is my last letter, I would like to say thank you to all of you who make Mt. Olivet the great place that it is. So many people contribute in so many ways to allow Mt. Olivet to do God's work. All of your time and talents, along with your faithful financial support, allow us to reach out in so many ways to so many people, both in our community and in the greater world. It has been an honor to be President for the past several years, to see how people come together in ways big and small, to love and support each other and to "be the church." I personally need to thank Stacey for all that she does to keep Mt. Olivet moving forward even during a lockdown. She goes far and above her job and makes Mt. Olivet look good in more ways than you can imagine. I would also like to thank Pastor Michael and the whole Smith family, not only for his ministry and teaching, but their love and support for the past five years. Last, but not least, to each of you for your prayers and support during some difficult times. This past year has certainly been like no other, and yet, Mt. Olivet has come through with flying colors. Due to all the times that you said yes: you volunteered, you gave your time, talent, or finances, you prayed, you sang or played - you were keeping Mt. Olivet alive and well. Looking forward to seeing all of you soon. Stay healthy and safe.



A Word From Our Treasurer...

by Linda Eisenbraun

Current Income and Expense

November - Ending Balance	\$15,217.71
December Income	\$6,268.36
December Expense	\$(17,491.69)
December - Ending Balance	\$3,994.38

Our First Quarter Special Offering is for the *Youngstown Community Food Center*, which is located near downtown Youngstown, feeding families each Tuesday morning, 52 weeks a year. They have been in existence since 1986, supplying food and non-food items to the less fortunate. They are currently providing for over 7,590 families a month. This inter-agency foodbank works in the Mahoning, Trumbull, and surrounding counties to reduce hunger, acting as a non-profit clearing house which helps prevent the waste of edible foods.

As a reminder, we have not ordered offering envelopes this year. We will be providing pew envelopes when church is resumed in person. If you wish your contribution to be broken down into various funds, please indicate that. If you submit a pledge, it can be done for you if your contribution is the same each week or month. Please be sure that if you are using a general pew envelope to please include your name. If you know your original envelope number, you can use that as well.

Anyone with a stockpile of unused envelopes at home is welcome to bring them in for pew envelopes. If you want a box of old envelopes to use, please see Stacey in the office, or myself, and we can get you a box.

Thank you for all of your continued support of Mt. Olivet's mission to serve God, serve others.

ANNUAL MEEETING FOR 3Cs will be at **8pm** at the Old School Marketplace on **Tuesday, February 2nd**.



Mt. Olivet Women's Guild News

By Phyllis Manning & Millie Stratton

If you haven't read the annual report yet, just a little message from us. We would truly like to thank you once again for your super donations to both Harvest Homes, in the amounts of \$430.00 (Guild added \$200), and Thankoffering, for the playground at Leonard Kirtz School in the amount of \$504.

A new concern is here! Kay Hurd resigned as the Funeral Dinner Chairwoman. She has done this since 1998 and has served over 130 funeral dinners. Thank you, Kay! We have been told that she will continue to help as needed, along with the rest of us who work and cook for these dinners.

We do have a new chairwoman, Niki Dispenza! She has agreed to take over with blessings from her Grandma Kay and we will support her as we did Kay.

Looking forward to coming together soon!

Community of North Lima NEWS

It's that time of year again! Even with all the uncertainty going on, the day camp is going to continue some of its fundraising efforts for the camp. We are sad to announce that we will not be holding our annual *Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper* this year. Though, we are happy to let you know that you can still order the ground sausage from the sale that we do every year at this same time.

The price is still only **\$4 a pound** and this local sausage is simply delicious in any recipe! Order forms can be found at the church in the hallway and Sanctuary. If you aren't able to make it in, feel free to call the church office and Stacey will mark you down. Orders and payments need to be in by **February 14th**! **Pickup of orders will be held on Sunday, February 28th** after church, or after that date during regular church office hours. We thank you for always supporting the camp!



MOVERS & SEEKERS

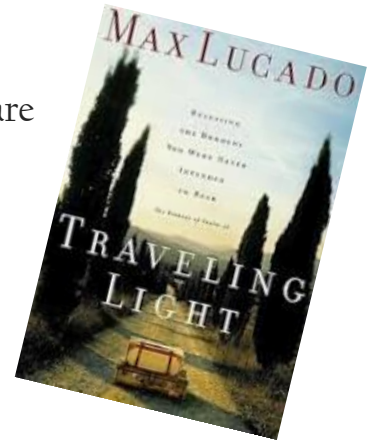
Sunday Mornings at 9:15am

In the Chapel

Feel free to join in with us at any time! We gather to reflect on scripture, spiritual books, inspirational films and more! Currently we are exploring the Max Lucado book, '*Traveling Light*'.

You don't even have to read the book to join in!

The class enjoys some much-needed fellowship as well as learning and growing in our relationship with God. It's not too late to join us..... check it out!

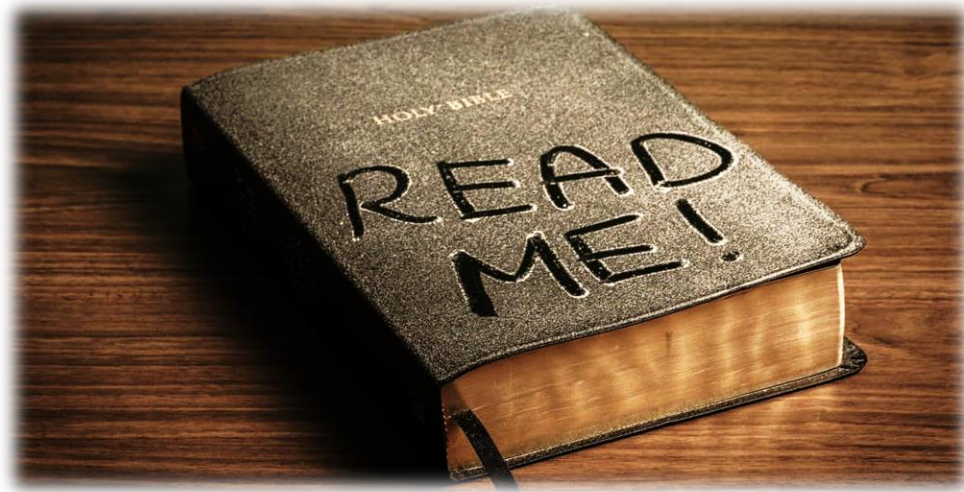


Kids aged four through eighth grade are welcome to join in the Youth Sunday School program with Tammie Jones and Nancy Crouse. The kids will follow them to the classroom after the *Kid's Time* in the Worship service.



Mt. Olivet UCC's

Lenten Bible Study



Wednesdays - for six weeks,
February 17th through March 24th
7:00pm

Join us for our annual Lenten Bible Study led by Pastor Michael. Each week we will look closely at the Scriptures in Psalms.

Sorry, no themed dinners this year!

See our website or listen for our One Calls to get details.

Change of Address

Please inform the office when you move, change your phone number or email address. We appreciate you helping us keep up-to-date. You can call 330-549-2169 or email changes to office@mtolivetucc.org.



Spiritual Council meeting: **Thursday, February 4th @7pm**
Consistory meeting: **Wednesday, February 10th @7pm**



News and other items for the **MARCH VOICE MAGNIFIED** is due NO LATER than **Sunday, February 14th**! Items submitted after this date **will not** be included. Thank you for your cooperation!



Mt. Olivet Grief Support Group **Next meeting on Saturday, February 20 at 9am**

We will be meeting in the Chapel while practicing social distancing and wearing masks. Discussion will continue around navigating the Christmas holiday with the loss of loved one.

Meetings will be held the **third Saturday of each month**.
The March meeting will be on **March 20th at 9am**.

If you feel that you would get benefit and comfort from being in the group, please contact the church office by phone or email (office@mtolivetucc.org), or call/text Tina Turnbull at [REDACTED], to register.

Mt Olivet United Church of Christ

410 W. South Range Rd.
North Lima, Ohio 44452

Address service requested

Michael Smith, Pastor

Stacey Jarrett, Office Manager

Kay Williams, Music Director

Natalie Biller, Handbell Director

Spencer Reed, Organist

Vaughn Colkitt & Ryan Turnbull, Audio/ Visual Coordinators



FEBRUARY 2021 ~ VOICE MAGNIFIED

Loving God, Serving Others, Welcoming All