

Mount Olivet United Church of Christ



410 W. South Range Rd. North Lima, Ohio 44452 330-549-2169
Pastor Michael Smith ~ cell 330-446-8188 ~ pastormichael62@outlook.com
Stacey Jarrett, Office Manager ~ office@mtolivetucc.org



TOP 5 NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

- 5) REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ENTIRETY OF 2020 DURING SOCIAL GATHERINGS.
- 3) RELEARN SOCIAL CUES AFTER A YEAR AT HOME.
- 2) GO OUTSIDE. AMONG PEOPLE (EVENTUALLY).
- 4) READ MORE... SO I'M GOING TO TURN THE SUBTITLES ON, ON MY TV.
- 1) BUY ALL LEFTOVER 2020 CALENDARS AND BURN THEM!

Source: <https://www.scarymommy.com/funny-new-years-resolutions/>

As I write this, vaccines are being administered to healthcare workers across the country, as well as residents of nursing home facilities. There now 'is' light at the end of the tunnel. The list above refers to the time of eventually going back to normal after getting through the coronavirus. Our hearts and prayers go out to those who have been affected by the virus, losing loved ones, or being sick. Please, let me know if you I can help you in any way; bringing groceries, an in-person visit (if possible), or even an online visit.

In the New Year, we will continue to keep your safety as our top priority, by honoring Ohio's guidelines and the United Church of Christ's conference recommendations. Our desire is to begin in-person worship services as soon as it is deemed safe by the organizations named above, in addition to the Mt. Olivet Consistory board. We are working on ideas of how to orchestrate an Annual Meeting if we are still in the remote phase of avoiding larger gatherings. We will figure it out! We will stand in the light of a new day, with God's help, as we turn (burn) the calendar.

Let's celebrate the light becoming brighter! Sandra Lindsay, an ICU nurse at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens, New York City, was administered the vaccine and had this to say...

"I'm feeling well. I would like to thank all the frontline workers, all my colleagues who have been doing a yeoman's job to fight this pandemic all over the world," she said. "I feel hopeful today, relieved. I feel like healing is coming. I hope this marks the beginning of the end of a very painful time in our history." (CNN reporting).

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Pastor Michael



Bob & I want to thank everyone for their cards & continued prayers. We miss everyone so much! We have spent a lot of time confined to our room with no visitors, so it's been trying. Everyone reaching out to us, makes it better. Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Love,
Bob & Jean

ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION DUE – Sunday, January 10th

Any members that are in charge of their group's Annual Report submissions, please have them in by the deadline. The office will send one more reminder email the week before. It makes things easier for the office to not have to chase information around.

We know that there isn't much to talk about for this past year, and it's impossible to plan the future, and that's okay. Just submit what you can! Reports will be distributed for the Annual Meeting, time and date TBD.



Consistory News

by Barb Feaster

Consistory met on Dec. 9th at the church with all but one member present.

Thank you to all of our Consistory members and our Treasurer for being dedicated during this very difficult year. Together, in person, or on Zoom despite all the uncertainties, we continued the work of the church in the best way we could. I know that we all very much look forward to being all together as a church family as soon as possible. Our financial news is actually rather good for this time of year. Due to some generous donations earlier in the year, our current expenses are in the black! Yay! Mt. Olivet is so blessed to have such generous members. It is wonderful to be ending the year on such a great note. The Budget Committee has started the process of putting a budget together for next year and will be completing that this week. Thanks to Jeff White, Dave Ritter, Tina Davis, Linda Eisenbraun, and Frank Einsiedel for their collective expertise in this area.

The Nominating Committee also met and put together a new slate of incoming Consistory members for 2021. They are as follows: Niki Dispenza moving from Deacon to Elder, Tammie Jones – Elder, Peggy Hanlon – Elder, Dominic Mioni – Deacon, Hannah Crouse - Jr. Deacon. A big thank you to those who said YES, as well as to the committee: Phyllis Manning, Kaye Gregory, Trent Rapp, and Dave Ritter for putting this together.

Our next discussions included Christmas Eve and how to have an Annual Meeting and vote without being present. Needless to say, we are still working on those things. We will keep you posted. We also are looking into the ways to present an 'easy to use' remote service for everyone. It is very time consuming and somewhat difficult to put all the parts together. We greatly appreciate the Smith Family for recording and putting the parts together and the time for uploading it so we can still have our service. Thanks to Vaughn Colkitt for all his work in making it sound as good as possible.

The vaccines are beginning to become available, which is great news! We are all hoping and praying for a good outcome with these and looking forward to coming back together with family and friends. In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy! Remember to look for all we have to be thankful for during this special season. We are blessed in so many ways, despite this unsettling pandemic, we can still celebrate the greatest gift ever given, the birth of a baby in a stable over two thousand years ago. Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Healthy New Year!



A Word From Our Treasurer...

by Linda Eisenbraun

Current Income and Expense

October - Ending Balance	\$1,703.92
November Income	\$30,564.58
November Expense	\$(17,050.79)
November - Ending Balance	\$15,217.

Our fourth-quarter Special Offering is for the Leonard Kirtz School | MCBDD. We have several members that either teach at and or attend the school, and they are working on some special projects to benefit the children.

Every year, we order offering envelopes. We have had many members indicate that they do not use them. There are also hundreds of boxes that are never picked up sitting in the office so, this year, we are not going to order envelopes. Though we will be sure that there are envelopes in the pews for you to use. Anyone with a stockpile of unused envelopes at home is welcome to bring them in for pew envelopes.

Please make sure to write your name on the envelope, since it will not have your number on it. If you know your previous number, you may continue to put it on the envelope as well.

Thank you to all for your continued support of Mt. Olivet's mission to serve God, serve others. Be safe and have a Merry Christmas, Jesus will be with us even though we are not in person.



Mt. Olivet Women's Guild News

By Phyllis Manning & Millie Stratton

We want to thank our congregation for your awesome answers to prayer for our annual Thankoffering program. We were able to raise a total of \$484.66, and we gave a check to Jules Hazlett to take to the Leonard Kirtz School for their new playground equipment. Many thanks to her for her help with the Women's Guild Thankoffering presentation this year. We hope that the school is able to build a wonderful playground for those very deserving children at the school. If you still want to donate, contact Jules and she will make sure to get it to the school!



MOVERS & SEEKERS

Sunday Mornings at 9:30am

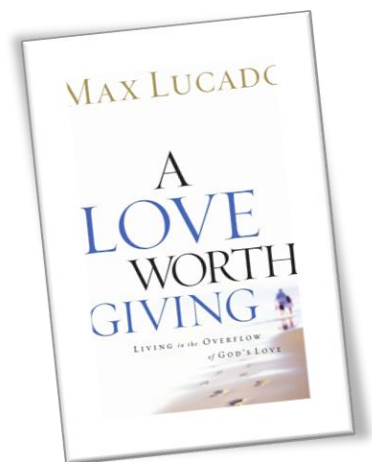
On Zoom till services resume

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, *'A Love Worth Giving'*.

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

It's been a great class! The book is an easy read, but is very good, thought-provoking, and the basis for some awesome discussions!

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! (If you need help connecting via Zoom, please call Pastor or Tammie Jones. Together, we'll figure it out!)



Thank you to all you participated in the Pajama Drive, spearheaded by the Movers and Seekers Adult Sunday School Class! Thirty-eight pairs of pajamas, ranging in sizes newborn through adult, were delivered to the Jewish Community Center and gratefully received! :)

I am so proud of our Mt. Olivet church family. Even in the midst of a lockdown, God's love shines brightly through you. The foster children who will receive these pajamas will certainly feel that love too!

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, January 7th @7pm
Consistory meeting: Wednesday, January 13th @7pm



News and other items for the **FEBRUARY VOICE MAGNIFIED** is due NO LATER than **Sunday, January 17th**! Items submitted after this date **will not** be included. Thank you for your cooperation!



Mt. Olivet Grief Support Group **Next meeting on Saturday, December 19 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 January meeting will be on **January 16 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).

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



January 2021 ~ Voice Magnified

**No matter who you are
or where you go on life's journey...
YOU are WELCOME here.**