

Revelations

Sharon Center United Methodist Newsletter

March 2020

Dear Faith Community,

Butterflies are amazing! Have you even been to a butterfly house or garden? They are amazing places where sometimes thousands of butterflies live, and if you sit very still, a butterfly will land on you. Watching them becomes hypnotic as they slowly move their wings, showing off their beautiful markings and tiny body and legs. I've always been amazed to watch the process of change that happens as a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, the transformation that happens to its tiny body. There's nothing we can do to help; they must trust the process and have faith that in the end it will be a whole new creature, capable of things beyond imagination.

Isn't that what it's like for us too, as Christians? We start out as one thing, and by trusting in God's transforming grace and mercy we are transformed into a new person. Just like the caterpillar, it doesn't happen quickly, and sometimes it's painful; no one can help us with the hard work and only God can make it happen. We are all just caterpillars on our way to butterflies, trusting Him and doing the hard work.

Through the season of Lent, we'll be doing the intentional work of seeking a change of heart and actions. Lent can be like a reboot of your computer, or a boot camp for the soul: it's a restart in a focused area. There are lots of ways that we begin again: we start a new exercise program, train for a new job, or go on a retreat. Let's think together about how we can be transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We'll begin Lent with a powerful Ash Wednesday service and then open our Sanctuary for prayer each Wednesday from 7 to 8 PM. Drop in for personal prayer and stay for a few minutes or a whole hour. Leave your burdens on the altar. Then join us for Holy Week services as we prepare to sing Alleluia in a new way, celebrating the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

God bless you as you seek to live and love like Jesus.

Pastor Jane



Did Someone Hand You This Newsletter?

If so, we're excited to share with you all the things going on in the life of Sharon Center United Methodist Church! Our church is a community that seeks to discover more about God and about who we are as the people God loves. We are truly a family of all ages, and there's always room for more! You're always invited to take part in all the activities and gatherings listed in this newsletter, as well as to join us every Sunday morning at 10:30am as we gather to worship and connect. Thanks!



RE:



A Note from the Choir Director

Bell Choir practice will resume on March 2 at 7pm and be every Monday evening. They will play on April 19.

Adult Choir will have a special performance on April 26 during the service. If you would like to participate on a short term basis, this is a great opportunity.

Children's choir will practice on the first Sunday of the month and perform on the second Sunday of the Month.

~ Millie Frambaugh



Every Wednesday during Lent the church will be open from 7p to 8p for individual personal prayer time. Music will play quietly; candles will be lit, and a prayer station will be available to facilitate quiet time. March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8. All are welcome.

Mark your calendars for our Easter Week Schedule:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Palm Sunday | April 5 | 10:30am |
| Maundy Thursday Service | April 9 | 7pm |
| Good Friday Service | April 10 | 7pm |
| Easter Sunday Sunrise Service | April 12 | 7am |
| Easter Breakfast | | 8:30am |
| Traditional Easter Service | | 10:30am |

Outreach and Faith Formation Activity

The Worship Team has assembled LENT IN A BOX to be used as an outreach tool and as a devotional for each person and family at



LENT
in a
BOX

Sharon Center UMC. First, take one for yourself to be used with your family each week during Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday. If you pick up yours late, that's fine – you can catch up quickly! In each box is an activity, a devotional and some great questions for discussion or personal study/journaling.

Second, take a couple to give to others and invite them to join us for our Holy Week and Easter Services (and then follow up with them and see how it went). Take one to someone who is shut-in and might need to feel connected to the Sharon Center UMC family. We've made 100 boxes and we need all of them to be handed out and used for everyone to experience Christ in a new way as we prepare for a NEW ALLELUIA!

Scout Sunday

Scout Sunday for Sharon Center UMC is March 8.

On February 12, 1920, the Methodist Church and Boy Scouts of America started a formal partnership. We are grateful to be in ministry together with them for 100 years. Many things have changed in those 100 years, but the Scout values remain the same. The commitment of the church to grow youth with values remains as well. We will also recognize young women in service through the Girl Scout organization. Opening the door for leading in service, sharing in recognitions and awards, and spending time worshipping together is one of the best ways to show the love of God for young men and women. Our Partnership with Girl Scouts is strong and growing. We support and empower girls in faith and skill. All Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniform and participate in the service. See Pastor Jane for a role in the service. We need greeters, readers, ushers, flag bearers. This is also a Cookie Sunday!

Calendar

Regular Schedule:

Sun. 9a Adult Sunday School
10:30a Worship

February

25th 7p Easter Experience
26th 6p Soup Supper
7p Ash Wednesday
Service
27th 10a *The Way Study*
7p Choir Practice

March

2nd 7p Bells practice
3rd 10:30a Prayer Shawl Grp
7p Easter Experience
4th 1p Worship Team mtg
7p Church quiet time
5th 10a *The Way Study*
7th 8a Men's Breakfast
10a Book Club
8th Scout Sunday
9th 7p Bells Practice
10th 7p Easter Experience
11th 7p Leadership Bd mtg
7p Church quiet time
12th 10a *He Chose the Nails*
Study
16th 7p Bells practice
17th 7p Easter Experience
18th 7p Church quiet time
19th 10a *He Chose the Nails*
Study
11:30a Lunch Bunch
7p Choir Practice
23rd 7p Bells Practice
24th 7p Easter Experience
25th 7p Church quiet time
26th 10a *He Chose the Nails*
Study
7p Choir Practice
30th 7p Bells Practice
31st 7p Easter Experience

March Birthdays

- 2 - Jean Geitgey
Wanda Lang
Doris Petrencsik
- 3 - Chloe Brosch
- 10 - Larry Rexroad
Wanda Quick
- 13 - James Eales
- 15 - Alex Graham
- 17 - Pat Bernhard
- 21 - Eryn Graham
- 26- Benjamin Falconer
- 23 - Tricia Antonelli
- 31 - Richard Frost

March Anniversaries

- 12 - Patrick & Erin Keenan
- 27- John & Eileen Smith

Special thanks:

I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards after my dad's passing. It meant a lot to me.

I also would like to thank everyone who prayed for me, and the get well cards after my surgery.

~Mindi Haddix

Address update:

Norma Bates
White Pond Villa
477 White Pond Dr. #532
Akron, OH 44320

Lunch Bunch

Mar. 19 Dominic's Italian Restaurant
11:30a 221 S. Jefferson Str. Medina, OH

April 16 Finny's Sports Bar
11:30a 4050 S. Cleveland Massillon Rd. Norton, OH

The car pool will leave the church at 11am. Please sign up on the sheet located under the bulletin board by the stairs to the balcony. Please let us know if you will be driving on your own. We order our meals from the menu and each person pays for their own meal. Everyone is invited – bring a friend if you wish!

~ Nancy Vogel

Foundations Team

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School is studying *The Gospel of John* by Matt Williams. The study is being led by Pastor Jane. We meet in the Conference Room at 9am each Sunday morning. Please join us to study the word of God.

Spiritual Growth Discussions

February 25th we will begin a 6 week study called *The Easter Experience - what if what happened then changes everything now?* is being offered. Please join us for this important study. This study is at 7pm in the Conference room. Pastor Jane is facilitating this study.

The Thursday morning study facilitated by Rand Raw is studying *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado. This study invites you to examine the cross, contemplate its purpose, and celebrate its significance. See just how much God did to win your heart. This 5-week study starts Thursday March 12 at 10am.

~ Nancy Vogel



Sparks

Sparks Youth Fellowship – HOLD THE DATES!

The Sparks Youth Fellowship is for kids in Grade 3 who have received their Bibles on up, with older youth helping to lead and grow the sparks into on-fire people for God! Here's the dates for our upcoming gatherings: Check for details when it's closer to the dates.

3/8 Watch for a Special Service Project in our community

4/3 We care for the Earth (possible tree-planting)

5/5 Campfire and gardening (possible finger Labyrinth)

Help Wanted

Children's Sunday School Teachers needed for kids ages 5 to 12 during Worship. Simple activities provided, videos, music with easy explanations. Once a month or once a quarter, all help appreciated! Contact Pastor Jane @ 330-321-4700 or janepiehl@gmail.com.

Book Club

March 7th

My Antonia

by Willa S Cather.

The story published in 1918 is about a Virginia orphan boy and a Bohemian immigrant girl who are pioneers in Nebraska toward the end of the 19th century.

April 4th

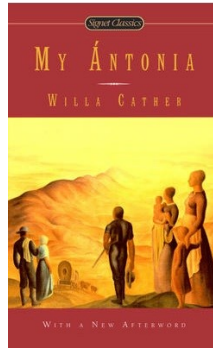
The Life She Was Given

by Ellen Marie Wiseman

This book is set in 1931 and discusses the devastating power of family secrets. It is set in the Depression-era and is about a girl who was sold to the circus.

The Book Club meets on the first Saturday of the month at 10am except for weeks with holidays when it meets the second Saturday of the month. Feel free to join us and bring a friend if you wish.

~Nancy Vogel



Check out our Website!

www.SharonCenterUMC.org

Our webmaster, Ken Ullery, has been working hard behind the scenes to add some new functions to our website. Our website is the first thing our visitors check out before they attend and it's important to keep it up to date, plus is a great resource for all the activities that happen at Sharon Center UMC. Can't find last week's bulletin? It's on the website. Forget where Lunch Bunch is this month? Check out the newsletter on the website. The calendar is updated weekly so that you know what groups are using the Fellowship Hall and what time potluck starts. Thank you, Ken, for all of your hard work – with more new tools coming!

Prayer Labyrinth Eagle Scout

Project – Evan Lautenschleger, a member of Boy Scout Troop 511 out of Granger, a junior at Highland High School, and member of Sharon Center UMC will be constructing his Eagle Scout project at Sharon Center UMC which will be a Prayer Labyrinth. There is a diagram of the labyrinth in the gathering room. This will be constructed behind the church, the completion goal is this spring. When it comes time to create the project anyone interested in donating their time to help will be appreciated. The cost of this project is approx. \$1200. Any donation that you are able to make to help me accomplish this Eagle Scout project would be greatly appreciated. Checks may be made out to Sharon Center UMC and placed in the envelopes marked Prayer Labyrinth. *Thank You, Evan Lautenschleger.*

Pantry Pick of the Month

March 2020 -

It's spring cleaning season. Let's stock the pantry with cleaning products - dish soap, Lysol, bathroom cleaner, floor cleaner, cleaning wipes, etc.



Thank you for your support!

March Mission of the month is LOVE INC

(Love In The Name Of Christ). Love INC is supported by Sharon Center United Methodist Church and we are a part of the network of churches in Medina County that provides a helping hand to those in need. Check out the website at www.loveincmedina.org.



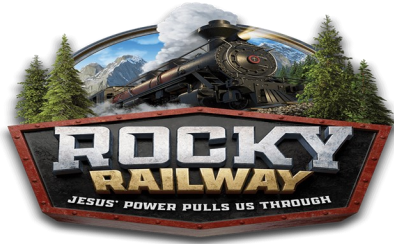
Love INC Medina is a nonprofit organization committed to serving the people in Medina County who are facing financial hardships since 2010. As a part of the National Love INC movement, Love INC of Medina County is one of 134 affiliates in 29 states. Love INC works together with partner churches, organizations and agencies to help financially empower individuals and families. We help by providing financial assistance when struggling families and individuals are faced with utility disconnections, evictions, car repairs and other financial crisis. Trained volunteers and staff clarify and evaluate the requests for assistance to verify legitimate need, and then refer clients to other resources that can partner with them assist them.

This month we will be collecting essential kitchen household items for families and individuals who obtain housing due to a homeless situation, domestic violence or other financial insecurity. These families or individuals are starting their new lives without any of the essentials that make a house a home! We are asking for gently used kitchen essentials to distribute to those in need.

Here's a list of what's in a "starter kit": Gently used pots and pans, glasses, serving utensils, mixing bowls, silverware for four, bakeware, dishes for four. Please bring to the church and place on the table in the back and we will assemble into kits for donation at the end of the month. Here's a great opportunity clean out your cupboards and help those in need too!

Vacation Bible School 2020

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and down.



We are partnering with St Paul Lutheran church again this year. It will be held at St Paul's Monday June 22 through Friday June 26. We will serve a kid-friendly meal at 5:30PM each night with the program running from 6:00-8:00P. We will get steamed up at Loco Motion Games, stop at Imagination Station, have Bible adventures, and take a break for Chew-Chew Snacks. Kids in Pre-School and Kindergarten will be in the Little Kids Depot and 1st Through 5th grades will rotate between the stations. Registration forms will be available soon.

Sharon Center UMC will be responsible for Opening and Closing, Games, and Pre-School. We will provide two of the meals and the ingredients for two of the snacks. If you have any railroad-themed decorations you can lend us it will help set the mood. We can also use help during that week whether is one day or all five. Let Paul Turner know if you can help (330) 958-7376 or pcturner0277@gmail.com

Men's Group

This year we are using *The Making of a Man* by Tim Brown. Tim Brown won the Heisman Trophy at Notre Dame and played 17 years in the NFL and was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 2015. Its about leading a life of honor and integrity that honors God. This is a study for all men no matter what stage of life you are in. There are six sessions and we plan to go until Saturday May 2, with filling in some of the months with community service projects.

Our next meeting will be Saturday Mar. 7, 8-9:30AM at Sharon Center UMC.

If you want to see what you missed you are welcome to borrow the materials in between meetings. You can also join in at anytime because each session is independent of the others and there are no pre-requisites. .

~ Paul Turner

Sharon Center UMC Moves to One Board Leadership Team Model

On January 26, 2020, at the Sharon Center UMC All Church meeting held after Worship, there was unanimous approval to move to a One Board Leadership Team model. With the blessing of our District Superintendent, our church decided to move from the traditional committee format / structure to a streamlined model.

A One Board Leadership Team will combine the Finance, Staff/ Parish Relations, and Trustees Committees into one team for leadership, oversight, and goal setting for our church. Specific teams can then form to do the work of the Church, such as a particular project--mission / ministry, or outreach effort--and when that project is completed, the team may then dissolve (examples of this are the Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast that does community outreach, our Halloween outreach, and several other missional efforts).

The Leadership Board will confirm the church's vision and goals in partnership with the Pastor, set priorities for the congregation, care for the assets of the church, and align church resources with established priorities. They will establish a yearly church budget, work cooperatively with the District Superintendent and Pastor, and work in partnership with ministries / programs to fulfill the church's vision and goals.

The Pastor will keep the church focused on its vision, hire, supervise, and assess paid and volunteer staff, mentor new leaders and support current leaders, monitor team leaders in various ministries to work toward accomplishing their goals that further the church's vision / goals, and coordinate with and communicate with the Leadership Board.

As we live our church's vision to be the hands and feet of Jesus, we hope that this streamlined model will encourage us all to become more involved and active in our outreach and missional efforts, without the need to serve on numerous committees or spend valuable time in meetings rather than outreach and ministry to our community and the world. We are excited about the possibilities this new model gives us to be more in service and meet our community's needs!



Easter Services

Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service @ 7a

(Greenleaf Park)

Breakfast at Church @ 8:30a

Traditional Service @ 10:30a

Contact Us

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P.O. Box 239
Sharon Center, OH 44274

(330) 239-1616
SharonCenterUMCSecretary@gmail.com

Pastor Jane
janepiehl@gmail.com
(330) 321-4700

Visit us on the web at:
www.SharonCenterUMC.org

Visit Us on Facebook!

Service time: Sunday, 10:30a

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE