

# Revelations

Sharon Center United Methodist Newsletter

January/ February 2023



Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! I send you greetings for health, happiness and a renewed commitment to Christ in the new year.

I've spent some time thinking about 2022 and making some goals for myself in 2023. I hope to start some new healthy habits, take care of my body and soul, and be more intentional about spending time with the people I love. For me, unless I plan and am intentional about things, well, they just don't happen. But then I remember that God's plans aren't necessarily my plans. Nothing can stop the sovereign will of God, and I am comforted knowing that He's taking care of all things.

What new things will God show us in 2023? How can we serve God and our neighbor, and invite others into our community of faith? I know that I am listening hard to where God wants to send us and who He is inviting to join us. What we need are FRESH EXPRESSIONS of the faith we hold. To be successful, we need to be open to change. Just because we have never done something that way doesn't mean we shouldn't try. I look forward to something new, something different, something exciting.

We've started a series of sermons focused on the book of Amos. Amos is nine chapters long, and was written by a shepherd/fig picker. Who was this guy? What can we learn from him? I have to admit that Amos can be a little discouraging if you didn't know the end of the story. We know that Jesus can deliver us from all of our fear if we will just place our trust in Him. While we wait, I think we'll find some new nuggets in the prophecies from long ago. Join us on Tuesday evenings at 7PM in the Conference Room or 10:30AM in Worship for more.

God's blessing each day,

*Pastor Jane*

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## 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!*

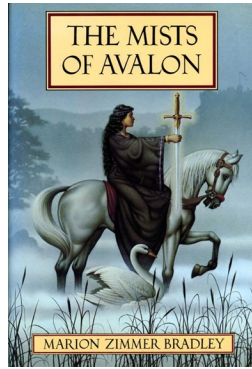
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## Book Club

We meet at 10:00am in the Conference Room at the Church. Please join us at any time to discuss the books.

February 4th ***The Mist of Avalon*** by: Marion Zimmer Bradley will be discussed. This book will enable us to see the tumult and adventures of Camelot's court through the eyes of the women who bolstered the king's rise and schemed for his fall.



March 4th ***Properties of Thirst*** by: Marianne Wiggins. Set in WW II, the book is about the meaning of family and the limitations of the American Dream.

~Nancy Vogel

## Food Pantry Collection

Let's fill the Food Pantry at St. Paul and our Blessing Box with canned fruits and veggies in January and Soups in February. Please remember the Blessing Box in front of the church when purchasing items as well as if you find someone you know who needs some basic food items to hold them over until they are able to purchase their own. The box is open to ANYONE. Drop off an item, or pick one up, or select a book to read. Our box has been used and it is a need in our community! Spread the word!



## Valentine Care Packages

We will be collecting items for Valentine Care Packages for our college students and military. Items are due Feb. 5. Please submit names and addresses to the office by Feb. 5



## Mission Projects

In January we will be making Student Kits for the Midwest Mission. All supplies have been purchased during Millie's recommended shopping time for school supplies. Thus, the supplies for the inside of the bags cost just \$6.37 each. The material for the bags was also purchased by several people and a big thanks goes out to those who made the cloth bags to hold the school supplies. Thank you - Betty Lewis, Nancy Baldwin, and Sherri Buck!!! All kits will go to non-profits internationally. (If you would like to contribute to this project, please place your donation in the collection plate and mark it Mission Project.)

## Diaper Collection

Our diaper collection totaled 888. All were delivered to the Midwest Mission Pickup site for Northeast Ohio on Monday 11/28/2022. A big thank you to all who contributed. Those babies feeling dry, loved, and comfortable will be very thankful!!

## Calendar

Regular Schedule:

Sun. 10:30a Worship  
available on Facebook Live

### January

1/10	7p	Study on Amos
1/11	7p	Leadership Team mtg
1/14	8a	Men's Study @ St. Paul
1/14	10a	Decoration take down
1/17	7p	Study on Amos
1/24	7p	Study on Amos
1/27	6:15p	Confirmation Class to Temple Israel
1/29		Sub Orders due
1/31	7p	Study on Amos

### February

2/4		Radio Test
	10a	Book Club
2/5		Sub Sandwich pick up
		Valentine Care
		Package items and names due
2/7	7p	Study on Amos
2/11	8a	Men's Study @Sharon
2/12		Scout Sunday
2/14	7p	Study on Amos
2/21	7p	Study on Amos
2/22	6p	Soup Supper
	7p	Ash Wednesday Service
2/24-2/26		Retreat for Confirmation Students to Camp Wanake
2/28	7p	Understanding Jesus Death & Resurrection Study

Special Thanks:

We want to thank all our friends at church for the beautiful flowers and anniversary card. It makes us feel still connected.

~ Art and Pat Shick

## January Birthdays

- 1 - Fred Coblentz
- 2 - Harry Courtright
- 7 - Bob Mravetz
- 11 - Doug Williams  
Ann Passmore
- 20 - Aimee Brosch
- 24 - Millie Frambaugh
- 31 - Bill Baldwin  
Edilene Coblentz  
Randy Raw

## January Anniversaries

- 7 - Pat & Art Shick
- 15- Andy & Deanna Pylypiak
- 17 - Scott & Nikki Danko

## February Birthdays

- 3 - Shirley Graham
- 5 - Amy Falconer
- 10 - Christine Boche
- 15 - Pastor Jane Piehl
- 18 - Sharon Fox  
Nicole Fox  
Connor Haddix
- 20 - Chad Lahoski
- 23 - Kerry Cline
- 28 - Eileen Smith

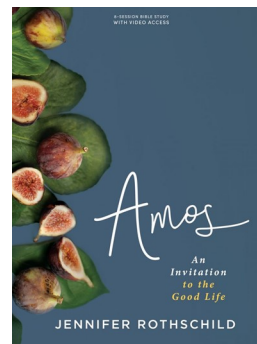
### Special Thanks:

Thank you all for your generous Christmas gift to Dave and myself. I can't express how special each of you have become over the last six Christmas celebrations together. We have remained faithful and God has blessed us! Your encouragement and kind words keep me energized and moving forward! I love seeing your faces and knowing that you are growing in faith and the love of Jesus. I'm looking forward to bringing others into our fellowship and sharing the gospel until Jesus comes. With a grateful heart,  
Pastor Jane

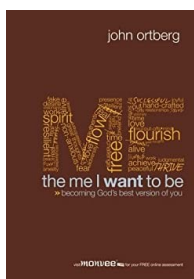
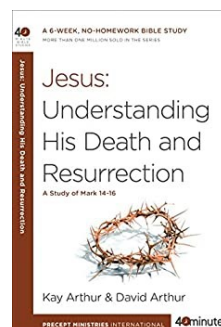
## Foundations Team

### Spiritual Growth Discussions

*Amos, An Invitation to the Good Life* by: Jennifer Rothschild will start to be discussed on Tuesday, January 3, at 7:30pm in the Conference Room. This 8-week study invites participants to live an assured, faithful, chosen, humble, just, prayerful, and hopeful life. Even though Amos is called the prophet of doom, he promotes the God life and the God life is the good life! This will be coordinated by Pastor Jane.



Starting February 28th the study *Jesus: Understanding His Death & Resurrection* will begin and continue until April 11th. It is a study of Mark 14-16. This six-week study is by Kay Arthur & David Arthur. Stephen Kinford is the leader for the class.  
~ Nancy Vogel



### Men's Breakfast Study

Men's Breakfast Study continues Saturday, January 14 at 8am at St. Paul's and Saturday, February 11 at Sharon Center UMC.  
~ Paul Turner

## Ash Wednesday Service

Join us for an Ash Wednesday Service on Feb. 22 at 7pm. Prior to the service we will have a soup supper at 6pm. All are invited to both.

## Scout Sunday

We will host a Scout Sunday on Feb. 12. All Scouts are invited to attend and participate. If your child would like to participate please contact Paul Turner or Pastor Jane. They will also receive a patch, please let Paul Turner know so that we have enough patches.

## Confirmation Class

Our Confirmation class has been working hard and will have a few activities coming up. On Friday, Jan. 27 at 6:15p they will attend Interfaith Worship Service at Temple Israel. February 24-26 they will attend Confirmation Class Retreat at Camp Wanake.

## Emmaus Walk

There will be an Emmaus Walk Opportunity coming up in April, the dates are:

Men's Emmaus Walk at Camp Wanake, April 13 - 16

Women's Emmaus Walk at Camp Wanake, April 20 - 23

Anyone who would like to attend, please see Pastor Jane or Dave Piehl.



## Notes from Leadership Board

**Policy on Holidays:** It is the policy of Sharon Center United Methodist Church that the church office will be closed on the following holidays: New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

**Incident Report:** This form is to be completed whenever an incident (i.e. injury, accident, fall, etc.) occurs. A copy is then be given to the injured party and to the Pastor. The church will maintain the completed form. Copies of the form are available in the church office. A copy of the form is attached to this newsletter.

**\*\*** You may think this is busy work but beware—in order for our insurance or workman's comp to cover an injury occurring on church property this form must be completed.

The Leadership Board has finalized the 2023 Operating Budget at \$111,779, which represents an increase of 3.4% over the 2022 Operating Budget. The portion of our Budget that has increased the most significantly is our Apportionments due to the East Ohio Conference and Canal District, which increased by 18.5%. This was not caused by significant expense increases by the Conference and District, but rather due to the closure of certain churches and the departure of others, causing the remaining churches to shoulder larger portions of these expenses. Sharon Center UMC has prided itself on maintaining full Apportionment participation, and the 2023 Operating Budget continues to reflect full participation.

Since we reaped a beneficial cash flow position during the COVID period, which was further bolstered by a \$30,000 grant from the Hillier Foundation, we were able to take care of significant maintenance projects within the church as well as the parsonage. We have also decided to connect the parsonage to a sewer line along Fixler Road, which will require a significant expense, but will both reduce our costs as well as enhance the value of the parsonage itself. The timing of the sewer project is not yet finalized, but is expected to be incurred in 2024.

The only area of concern as we head into 2023 is the level of Sunday plate giving. So far in 2022, we are tracking 8.7% below the levels necessary to maintain a positive cash flow position, which has required us to utilize the cash reserves we reaped in the pre-COVID years. As you plan your 2023 support of our church and associated ministries, please prayerfully consider increasing your giving levels so that we may continue to do great things in His spirit, assisting those in need within our community and throughout the world, and fostering discipleship as is our mission.

### Easter Week Services and Activities:

Palm Sunday (4/2)	10:30am	at Sharon UMC
Holy Thursday Service (4/6)	7pm	at Sharon UMC
Good Friday Service (4/7)	7p	at Sharon UMC
Easter Sunrise Service	7am	Location TBD
Easter Breakfast	8:30am	at Sharon UMC
Easter Resurrection Service	10:30am	at Sharon UMC



## Sub Sandwich Sale

Date: February 5, pick up at church on Saturday Feb 5 in afternoon, or Sunday Feb. 5 after service.  
Deadline for sub order form is Jan. 29

**Contact info:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up time frame (please circle): Saturday afternoon, Sunday after church, Sunday afternoon

If picking up Saturday or Sunday later in day we may place a cooler out for those orders. To be determined by necessity.

Delivery time frame: (please circle): Saturday afternoon, Sunday afternoon

We'll be coordinating our Sub Sandwich Sale same as last year. Subs will be made and wrapped with meat on them, we will be packaging selected toppings in sandwich bags or containers. Please checkmark the toppings you would like included in your order.

### Notes:

Sandwiches will be served on 7" sub sandwich rolls.

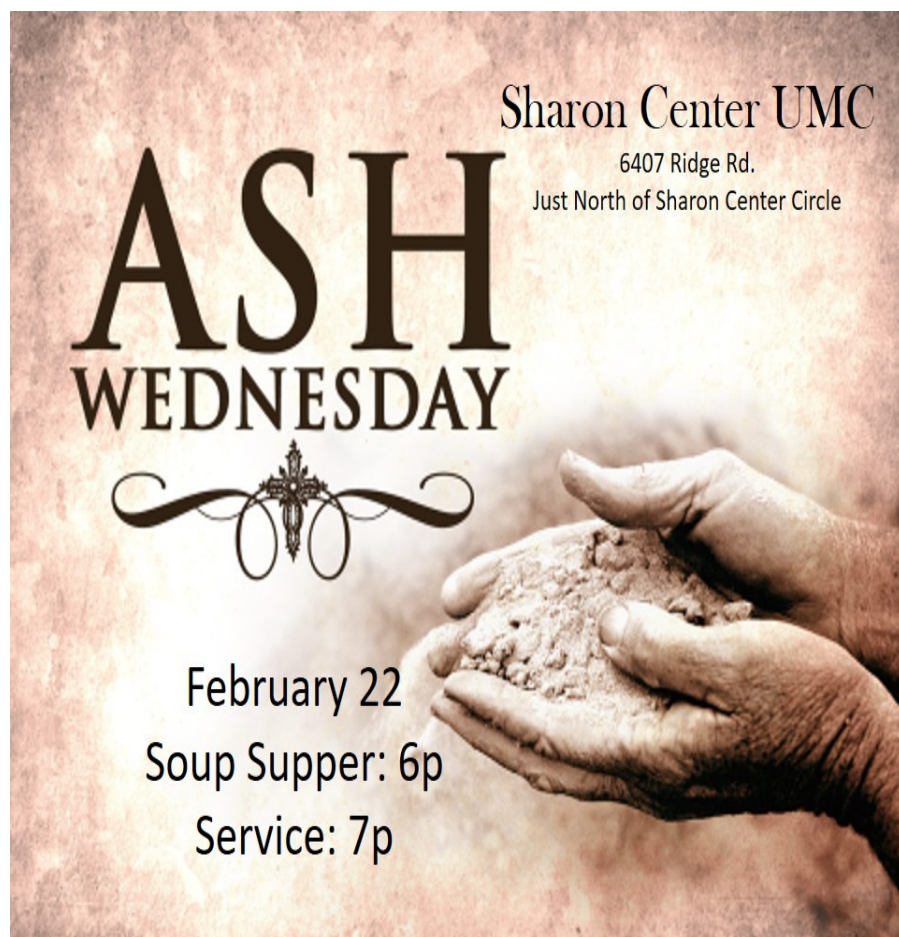
Italian Sub includes: Ham, Salami, Peperoni

Please fill out line on form for each Sandwich, use blank lines to write in additional subs.

Use boxes to check mark what you would like for each sub ordering.

Please have order form returned by **Jan. 29**

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## Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at:  
[www.SharonCenterUMC.org](http://www.SharonCenterUMC.org)

Visit Us on Facebook!  
Sharon Center UMC

Service time: Sunday, 10:30a

## Shop and Support Your Church at No Extra Cost



### What Is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile offers all of the same items, prices, and benefits of its sister website, Amazon.com, but with one distinct difference. When users shop on AmazonSmile, the retailer's Foundation contributes 0.5% of eligible purchases to the charity of your choice. For frequent Amazon users, this additional perk is a great way to give back to our church effortlessly. Here are some things to remember.

The Internet address is [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). But the company uses the term AmazonSmile in its explanatory information.

- If you already have an Amazon account, when you click on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you will be asked to sign in. If you don't have an account, you will need to set one up. It doesn't cost anything to set up an Amazon account.

- Once signed into [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you will be prompted to pick a charity. You can select Sharon Center United Methodist Church. Once you do that, a percentage of your purchase price on many, but not all, items will be donated to the church.

You must remember to go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) each time you shop for all of this to work. So, consider bookmarking the site.

This is an easy, simple way for the church to benefit from your shopping at no extra cost to you!

Sign up today!