

Crystal Park United Methodist Church Newsletter



March/April 2022

Crystal Park United Methodist Church

2219 Mahoning Road NE

Canton, OH 44705-1911

330-455-0009

Sunday School9:30 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

*The mission of Crystal Park UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the community and beyond.*



Words from Pastor Jake

Jesus has always been one to invite.

He said, "Drop your nets and follow me."

He said, "Let the little children come."

He said, "Stand up from your mat, you are healed."

Jesus has always been one to invite, and that has not changed.

(From A Sanctified Art: Communion Liturgy)

The standard invitation to lent typically includes an invitation to increased use of spiritual practices like fasting and prayer, to times of deep reflection and repentance, an invitation to restraint ("what are you giving up for lent this year?") Each of these practices has their place, and like John Wesley, I encourage weekly fasting not only through lent, but throughout the year. These practices come to us from the historic purpose of lent – preparing candidates for baptism on Easter Sunday. Lent has always been a time of preparation, of intentional growth, of looking inward in our times of reflection as we seek to grow in Christlikeness.

The invitation to Lent this year looks a little different. Abundant and expansive grace. Say that phrase aloud, "abundant and expansive grace." Full to the Brim, our Lenten worship series, is an invitation into a radically different Lent. This is an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

I continue to encourage you to utilize those practices that you have found meaningful in Lent, and I encourage you to consider how some new practices might empower you to live into this invitation to experience the abundant and expansive grace of God. Consider some of the practices below:

1) Regular time for silence – set a timer for 3 -5 minutes. During that time, sit comfortably. Open and relax your hands. You may fall asleep, and that's ok! Receive that as a gift from God or rest. If you manage to stay awake, notice how your body feels, welcome any wondering thoughts with a "hello" and a "see ya later," and pay attention to what your senses are experiencing. What do you hear? What do you smell? What do you feel?

2) Naming – this is a spiritual practice I use regularly, and it is all about a shift in perspective.

Whenever you hear or read someone's name, repeat their name along with the phrase "a child of God for whom Christ lives." I promise that this simple practice will dramatically transform your ability to see all people as made in God's image. This practice has reduced conflict for me, as empowered me to remain a non-anxious presence, and prevents me from being pulled into the various factions that try to divide us.

If neither of these options sound right for you, find something that does! God will meet you in whatever practice you choose. Keep reading for more information about Lent and Holy Week Worship opportunities which will be held in the sanctuary at Faith United, 300 Ninth Street, NW, North Canton.

Ash Wednesday Services are March 2 at 12:00 noon and/or 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service – April 14, 7:00 p.m. is titled 'Take Off Your Shoes.' Remove the walls and protective layers you have built up. Allow yourself to be loved fully by God. Allow yourself to be filled to the brim so you can go out and fill others too.

Good Friday Service – April 15, 7:00 p.m. is titled 'Two Faces: A Dramatic Dialogue.' The intense drama centers around events leading to Christ's crucifixion as remembered and discussed in a powerful dialogue between Simon Peter and Judas Iscariot.

PREACHER

March & April Preaching Schedule

March 6 – Mr. Dan Griffith
March 13 – Rev. Jake Heskett
March 20 – Rev. Steve Stultz Costello
March 27 – Rev. Matt Kluchar
April 3 – Rev. Steve Stultz Costello
April 10 – Rev. Beth Ortiz
April 17, Easter – Rev. Jake Heskett
April 24 – To Be Announced



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Mary Binkley
Gary & Linda Conley
Dorothy Belles
Sheila Kauffman
Lew Williams
Bob Raymond
Our Crystal Park UM Church



We extend our sympathy to Jerry Drescher and Nancy Snodgrass on the death of Jerry's stepbrother, Gary Drescher, who died on December 31st, 2021.

We express our sympathy to Ted Smith and Lisa Walker on the death of Ted's brother, Dwight, who died January 29.

Sympathies to Bud and Rae Poland on the death of Rae's nephew, Joe, whose Celebration of Life was held on February 20.

Please hold these families in your prayers.



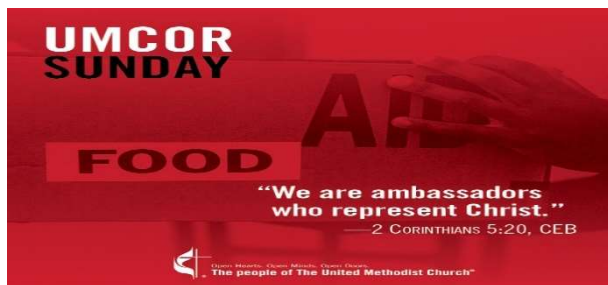
Thank you to Jack and Alma Gottscheck for donating two canopies for use with Faith Kitchen Grab-n-Go.

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy. They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." Thank you, the flowers were a pleasant surprise. Jack & Alma Gottscheck

A bright beautiful “Thank You” for the special things you do. Thank you so very much for the thoughts, prayers and cards during my recovery. You all are so very special to me. Rae Poland



Don't forget to turn your clocks AHEAD one hour Saturday night, March 12, as daylight saving time begins March 13.



March 27

UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief and will be the focal point of a Special Sunday offering on March 27. When watching disaster unfold around the globe, many of us feel the call to help but are at a loss as to what we can actually do to help. UMCOR Sunday is the day for congregations around the globe to help. UMCOR offers aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer:

- When tornadoes ripped through Kentucky, we responded.
- When hurricanes hit the southeastern part of the United States, we responded.
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded.
- And when the next crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond.

The UMCOR Special Sunday offering supports the committee so that when a disaster strikes, and you give toward that cause 100% of your giving goes to that devastation.

UMCOR acts as the hands and feet of Christ's church, moving towards the most vulnerable in their

time of need. Helping people in their darkest days doesn't have to be something "they" do, it can be something "we" do. We hope that you will give generously on UMCOR Sunday so that we, along with our United Methodist congregations around the globe, can share compassionate relief in the midst of devastation.

Our Cooperative Ministry



As we continue in our Cooperative Ministry with Faith United we are invited to participate in activities as both Crystal Park and Faith United Churches. Even though our Crystal Park newsletter focuses much upon activities at Crystal Park UMC we want to be sure you are aware of activities in which you can participate at Faith United. For information on Faith United activities visit www.myfaithunited.org or call the Faith United church office at 330-499-6040.

During the season of Lent Crystal Park and Faith United will be holding joint worship services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Information about these services was listed in the "Words from Pastor Jake" at the beginning of this newsletter.



At our January Leadership Council meeting persons were named and approved to the new Simplified Leadership Structure of our church. The 2022 leaders are:

Leadership Council:

Nina Raymond, Chairperson
Lois Golden, Financial Secretary
Doug Binkley, Assistant Financial Secretary
George Poland, Lay Leader

Louise Howenstine, Secretary & Staff/Pastor
 Parish Contact Person
 Rae Poland, Lay Member to Annual Conference
 Paul White, Treasurer
 Jerry Drescher, Building/Property Contact Person
 Sue Williams & Mary Pore, Mission Contact
 Persons
 Steve Stultz Costello & Jake Heskett, Pastors

**Committee on Nominations
 and Leadership Development:**

Steve Stultz Costello & Jake Heskett, Pastors,
 Chairperson

Rae Poland
 Paul White
 Linda Conley
 Lisa Walker

Flowers: Rae Poland

Faith Kitchen Coordinator: Jerry Drescher

Adult Sunday School Leader: George Poland

Children/Youth Sunday School Leaders:
 Sue Williams and Paul White

The next meeting of the Leadership Council will be on Friday, March 18, at 1:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

Faith Kitchen



Our monthly outreach will be Saturday, March 26, and Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. These will both be Grab-n-Go food giveaways in the parking lot. Food delivery and packing of bags will be on Fridays, March 25, and April 29, at 9:45 a.m. Please save your grocery bags and donate them to the church for this ministry.

For March, we invite you to help us by donating laundry and dish soap to be distributed in March at Faith Kitchen. We will need 200 of each (of any size). During March and April, we will collect cake mixes, icing, and spices for the special baking/spice bags to be distributed in April. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of this outreach ministry.



Easter Lilies

If you would like to place a lily on the altar for Easter, you can start bringing them to the church on April 10 (Palm Sunday). If you would like to have one purchased for you, you can give your money to Rae Poland or send it to the church office. If you would like to have a lily dedicated to someone, please give that information to Rae or the church office.

**2022 TUSCARAWAS DISTRICT SPRING
 CONFERENCE & LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

The Tuscarawas District Spring Conference and Leadership Training will be held Saturday, April 23, at Crossroads UMC in Canton. This is a time where we will vote on District At-Large Delegates for the 2023 Annual Conference, elect District Leadership for the 2022-23 conference year, and approve the district budget for 2023. All of Crystal Park leaders are invited to attend and be a part of the voting process. More information will be announced soon from the District Office.

Candy for Camp



We will once again be making Easter Candy to raise funds for camperships to send youth to summer camp. Order forms will be available by March 13

with orders taken until April 3. Candy will be ready for pick-up and/or delivery by April 10.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March:

- 1 Rev. Hyeran & Rev. Dr. Bohyun Yu – Anniv.
- 8 Gary & Linda Conley – Anniv.
- 9 Rev. Ann Murphy-Henman
- 15 Rhonda Garner
- 17 Donna Smith
- 17 Rev. Steve Stultz Costello
- 18 Rev. Hyeran Yu
- 24 Rae Poland

April:

- 13 Jeff Conley
- 13 Nina Raymond
- 16 Julio Guidone
- 18 Perry Bickel
- 28 Aaron Binkley
- 25 Atticus Stultz Costello

Church Attendance & Finances:



Our Gifts and Tithes

The average Sunday morning worship attendance for January was 18 and for February (as of Feb. 20) the average attendance was 19.

In looking at the financial picture of the church
 January Income = \$3,026; includes \$37.00 for
 Human Relations Day Offering
 January Expenses = \$2,694.11
 February Income (as of Feb. 25) = \$2,211.00
 February Expenses (as of Feb. 25) = \$2,762.08

We pray you will continue to give generously to support our church and the needs of our community.



- 2 Ash Wednesday Service at Faith United –
12:00 noon and/or 7:00 p.m.
- 4 World Day of Prayer
- 8 Cooperative Leadership Council at Faith
United – 1:00 p.m.
- 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 18 Crystal Park Leadership Council – 1:00 p.m.
- 25 Faith Kitchen Food Delivery & Packing –
9:45 a.m.
- 26 Faith Kitchen Grab-n-Go – 10:00 a.m.–12:00
noon
- 27 UMCOR Sunday with Special Offering



- 10 Palm Sunday – Begin bringing Easter Lilies
- 14 Maundy Thursday at Faith United – 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Good Friday at Faith United – 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Easter Sunday Worship – 11:00 a.m.
- 23 Tuscarawas District Spring Conference at
Crossroads UMC in Canton
- 25 May/June Newsletter Deadline
- 29 Faith Kitchen Food Delivery & Packing –
9:45 a.m.
- 30 Faith Kitchen Grab-n-Go – 10:00 a.m.-12:00
noon

Newsletter Deadline



The next newsletter will be for the months of May and June 2022. If you have articles or information for the newsletter please put it in the newsletter box in the office by April 25. If you submit an article from another source for the newsletter please note the author so we may comply with all copyright guidelines.

