

June 2021

The Messenger



From Our Pastor

WELL DONE, MOHAWK CHURCH

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!’” --Matthew 25:21

You’re the best! I say that unabashedly, happily, and whole-heartedly.

Talking with some of my colleagues the other day about the challenges of being a pastor during a world-wide pandemic this last year-plus, I realized at a deeper level how well we have done in dealing with the many issues we have faced. We really have done a very good job, for which I am truly thankful.

That’s not to say it’s been easy, because truthfully it has been tricky and sometimes downright hard. There have been weeks when I’m exhausted by Friday, my day off. I’m sure you have faced that same reality.

I want to commend you and thank you for rising up to meet the challenges of being a faith community the last 15-ish months. We pulled together and worked harmoniously to do our part to keep one another safe, to care for and love one another as Jesus commands us to do.

We have agreed for the health/care/love of everyone to wear masks and keep social distances, even if we may not have been sure how effective those measures are, because we cared enough for one another to

take those small inconveniences in stride. We worshiped from home when we needed to, met over Zoom as we had to, and refrained from touching and interacting in person when those were things our hearts and souls yearned to do.

The good news is that we only have to do this for a season. The great thing about seasons is they only last a while and then they’re over. By the grace of God, we are hopefully coming to the end of the present season. Whenever we do come to that end, we will rejoice in knowing God has been with us in this season.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.”* It then lists many seasons, such as *“a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance”* in verse 4. Such truth, and so applicable to us even today!

Together we, and others who care enough to love one another despite the difficulties, will get through this season and into the next. The best is yet to come!

Take care - of yourself and others. You are loved!

His,

Pastor Kerry

MUMC ADVISORY LEVEL

Our Administrative Council voted May 20 to move our reopening status to a modified level **BLUE**, effective May 20. That means wearing masks is now *optional*, as is social distancing. Numeric restrictions were lifted throughout the building. We want people who are able to get vaccinated to do so, and ask those who may not be comfortable in the sanctuary with these new guidelines to feel free to worship socially distanced in the Fellowship Hall, or to worship online. We want everyone to know we value you as a worshiping member of Mohawk Church!

We will continue to respect each other's choices for vaccination, mask wearing, and

social distancing. Please extend grace to those whose choices may differ from yours. Remember there can be many reasons for each one's choices.

One thing that did *not* change is that children entering the Nursery will still be scanned for temperature. Children with temperatures below 100.4 degrees will be welcome to stay until their parent picks them up.

We still will continue using the east and west entrances only, but you will no longer be scanned for your temperature when you come in. Let's keep praying that we will soon be past the pandemic *completely*. Until then, stay safe.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The pandemic has changed so many things, and Vacation Bible School this year is one of them. The good news is that we **WILL** be having VBS this year, unlike last year. It will be a shorter VBS than in past years as we cautiously move forward towards full reopening. Plans are to have VBS for two mornings, July 14 and 15. Both mornings, it will start at 9:00AM and

end at 11:00AM. We will be using Group Publishing's "Anchored" curriculum, which is specifically designed to be used in a shorter time frame. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets, and SIGN UP where you fit best. We need **EVERYONE** to pull together to make this a success!



STAFF CHANGES & OFFICE HOURS

In case you didn't hear, our Administrative Assistant, Ginger Schoenfeld, had to leave us. Her last day was May 14. Hopefully you got to wish her well. We now have **TWO** familiar people, our last two former AA's, covering our AA responsibilities! Carri Alexander, who left us to move to Texas, will now be doing things like typing and layout bulletins, newsletters, projection slides, etc. remotely from San Antonio. Doing on-site work like printing and folding bulletins, handling mail, updating bulletin boards, etc., will be Carolyn Swinford.

Carolyn plans to be in the office on Thursdays from 1:30-5:00pm. Pastor Kerry will be there then as well, plus other times as needed or by appointment. You should still send emails to them at officemumc@myinestarnet.net as before. If you need to get into the building other than Thursday afternoons, please call the church (317-326-2460) beforehand, and we will arrange a time. Meanwhile, we are working toward being in the office more, as conditions and schedules allow. Please be sure to welcome back Carri and Carolyn, our new dynamic duo!



DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Now that we've reopened our building, you have more opportunities to serve Jesus in your church. Song leaders and/or Liturgists, Sound room techs, Greeters, Nursery assistants, and Children's Church Facilitators are needed each week. Not sure how to do it? Let Pastor Kerry know you need to get trained

and he will arrange that right away. Sign up in person in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays, or go online any time to our Sign-Up Genius web page.

You can grow in your discipleship, and your church needs your discipleship on Sundays. It's a win-win, if you just say "Yes" -- and sign up!

www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4caba923a0fe3-mumc

MOWERS NEEDED

Sign up to mow (*using your own mower*) through September 25. You can sign up in our Fellowship Hall on Sundays, or follow the link below to choose a date and to see additional instructions. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e4baaa729a7fa7-2021>

PRAY BEFORE WORSHIP

You are welcome to pray before Sunday worship services for our congregation, the pastor, and our acolytes. We meet five minutes before the service begins by the north sanctuary entrance. If you would like to bless our congregation, pastor, and acolytes, come join in this brief time of prayer and blessing.

CHARGE CONFERENCE DATE SET

Our 2021 Charge Conference (the meeting where all the official Conference-level business of our congregation is done) date has been set. We will meet on Saturday, November 13, at 10:00AM at Trinity Park UMC. All committee chairs and church leadership should attend, and all are welcome as well. Please save the date now!

From the Finance Team

The new sound system has been purchased for under \$6000 and paid for with the Christmas and Easter special offerings. Thank you, congregation, for a much needed equipment upgrade!



BENCHES ARRIVE THIS MONTH

Our final two park benches will join the two already here later this month. Plans are to put one by the east and one by the west entrances to the church building. Thank you for donating money and plastic caps for this project. And whoever is

still leaving caps at the church, please stop! We don't have any place to take them, so we just end up putting them in someone's recycling bin or tossing them out.

Thank you all for helping me get through my first year at Purdue. That package came at just the right time! I am grateful!

*God Bless,
Gracie Gray*



*Mohawk Church,
I want to thank my Mohawk Church family for the love you have shown with the cards, prayer, calls, food, and visits during the past year. 2020 was a year of so much stress, sorrow, and uncertainty, but you still took the time to think of others. The love of Christ does dwell in this church. Thanks again!*

*God Bless,
Janet*



- 4 Leslie Dalton
- 5 Mike Stanley, Dean Thompson
- 6 Rhonda Beeker
- 11 Chris Gray
- 13 Emily Creed
- 14 Brad Westcott
- 15 Kennedy Teverbaugh
- 20 Jacob Gray
- 22 Kaci Gillespie
- 23 Bob Bennet, Diana Hartzog
- 25 Sam Bricker
- 27 Sandy Plank



- 10 Carl & Renee Creed
- 13 Jeff & Michelle Bricker
- 14 DeWayne & Kelly Paugh
- 25 Jennifer & Nathaniel Peyton