

February 2023

THE MESSENGER

From Our Pastor

SEEING RED...AND BLACK

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' -- Matthew 25:21 [and 23] (TNIV)

Well done, Mohawk Church! Well done, good and faithful servants!

At our Finance Committee meeting a few weeks ago, the 2022 year-end financial recap came as a blessing. We went from a deficit of more than \$17,000 at the end of 2021 to a "loss" of only \$1226 in 2022. I put "loss" in quotes because we also had about \$5300 more come in, but it was put into a reserve account that won't be counted as income until it's used. The way I would see it, that means we actually ended 2022 with a surplus of about \$4,000.

In other words, in one year, we went from seeing red to seeing black!

That, in and of itself, is immensely encouraging. It gives us some room to breathe. To plan. To look to God's future with enthusiasm instead of anxiety.

The good financial news came shortly before our "Breakthrough" retreat, a time when over 20 of us spent an afternoon together seeking God's direction for our congregation as we look ahead to the rest of 2023. During the retreat, we developed a process to examine the things we do for their effectiveness "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ" that our Mission Statement calls us to do. For example, we recognized that we do some things very well, but this process can help us find even better ways of making disciples, whether by tweaking what we already do or possibly doing new things that help our disciple making.

I have a hard time imagining what the retreat would have been like if we had been told we had a financial deficit like 2021. Thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of our *whole* congregation, 2023 looks to be a year of excitement, fun and of better disciple making. Let's all pray those become reality this year.

I am praying for you. Please pray for our congregation in making disciples!

His,
Pastor Kerry

THE “BREAKTHROUGH” EFFECT

Our “Breakthrough” retreat on January 22 brought about a good way to evaluate all of the things our committees and teams do, to help us honestly assess how well we are “*Making disciples of Jesus Christ,*” as our Mission Statement says. We now have a good way to see how all



that we do can be part of disciple-making. Our various committees will be using this process to see how we can become even better at making disciples, whether that’s tweaking or changing what we’re currently

doing or maybe adding other ways we might make disciples.

We sincerely ask each person who is part of Mohawk Church to pray for all of us and for this process to help us in disciple making. We need God to use us, so we need to ask God for His blessings, strength, and wisdom as we move forward.



7	Shailynn Steeno	14	Virginia Hartzog	
	Ashley Schenck	20	Jim Bandy	
10	Tommy Ewing	21	Rosalie Hunt	4
12	Lori Divine	26	Debi Lane	12
	Bill Ewing	27	Burl Bearhope	
				4
				12



NOTE: If you see anyone missing from our birthday or anniversary list, or inaccurate dates listed, please contact Lynne at mohawkumc@gmail.com or at 317-326-2460.

VALENTINES DAY DINNER

Join us on February 11 at 6pm for a Valentines Day Dinner at Cammack Station, just outside of Muncie, at 9200 W Jackson St. This restaurant is in a restored historic fueling

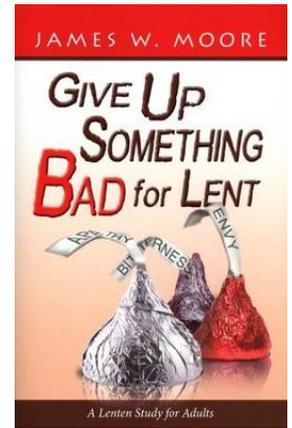


station, and specializes in old school sandwiches, burgers, hand-dipped ice cream, and handmade shakes. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact the office.



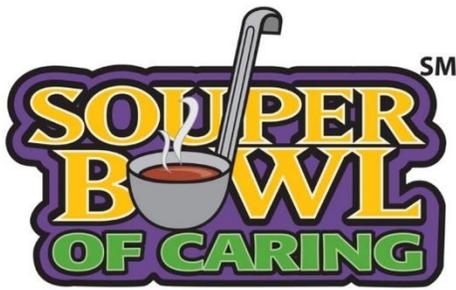
PASTOR'S LENTEN BOOK STUDY

You're invited to join Pastor Kerry for a six-week Lenten book study to enrich your experience of Lent. This study will be in person, during the Sunday school time of 10:15-11:00am. We begin on Sunday, February 26 (the Sunday after Ash Wednesday) and end on Palm Sunday, April 2. We will study the book "*Give Up Something Bad For Lent*" by James W. Moore. You must have a copy of the book to participate, so we will have a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall where you can order a copy for \$8 each. You must sign up by February 5 to get your book in time for the study, so be sure to sign up right away. If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Kerry.



DIRECTORY UPDATES – Please let the office know if your contact information has changed since last year's directory, which was updated in March.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS



Please consider supporting the Souper Bowl of Caring throughout the month of February to help "Tackle Hunger". We are asking every church-goer to donate just \$1 to the Hancock County Food Pantry. You can be a game changer by placing your dollar bill into the "Tackle Hunger" jar located on the refreshment counter. This is such an easy way to participate in the fight against hunger!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE & GROW IN FEBRUARY

Get involved in the life of our church on Sunday mornings! Can you be a Greeter, Song Leader, Liturgist, Sound-room tech (you will be trained!), or can you help in the Nursery or facilitate Children's Church? January has many openings. Click the link to sign up:

[Mohawk United Methodist Church: MUMC Worship Opportunities To Serve \(signupgenius.com\)](http://signupgenius.com) or contact the church office.



ASH WEDNESDAY



Ash Wednesday will be Wednesday, February 22. We will have our service at 7:00pm with the imposition of ashes. This service is the perfect way to start the Lenten season.

A SEDER PRESENTATION



We will have a very special presentation called “*Christ In The Passover*” on Wednesday, March 29, starting at 7:00pm. The presentation explores the religious significance of the *Seder*, a very ritualistic Jewish meal, presented by Leia Brown of *Jews For Jesus*. This is an interactive experience and not a meal, so be sure to eat dinner before coming. Put this on your calendar now, and then invite friends to come with you to add richness and depth to communion and to Holy Week.

CHILI N CHOCOLATE...N CHEESEBALLS?

We had a terrific time at our Chili N Chocolate lunch in January! There were also quite a few yummy cheeseballs, so Pastor Kerry is already looking ahead to next year!!



← Cheeseballs!

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY NEWS

During Lent, we will be using our Sunday School time to prepare for an **Easter Pageant**. This will be a story of kids googling the way jelly beans, eggs, and a bunny fit into the real meaning of Easter. The pageant will be performed during worship on Palm Sunday, April 2. Invite the whole family to this great morning.



We are also planning to have a family **LENT EVENT**, similar to last December’s *Family ADVENT-ure*. This will take place during Sunday school on **March 5**.



Guess what?! Our **VBS** material came in at the end of January! Our theme this summer will be Hero Hotline, “*Called together to serve God*” with the dates still to be determined. Ready to start thinking about summer?

LADIES’ LUNCHEON On Saturday, March 4, at 11am, join us for fun and fellowship. Soups, cheeseballs, and desserts will be served in fellowship hall. Last year’s event was so nice, be sure to put it on your calendar!

\$ - FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS - \$

The MUMC 2022 finances ended very well compared to prior years, with the help of all our congregation. Thank you so much for your continued support. We are a very blessed church!

Mohawk United Methodist Church Finances

	2022												2021	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year to Date	Year to Date
Income:														
General Offering	13,019	12,155	16,676	13,342	10,270	9,402	13,482	10,996	15,784	12,382	29,083	11,065	167,656	148,676
Other	355	486	1,733	932	388	243	703	314	198	770	1,386	841	8,351	18,622
Total Income	13,374	12,641	18,408	14,274	10,658	9,645	14,185	11,310	15,982	13,152	30,469	11,906	176,007	167,298
Expenses:														
Tithe	-	-	4,813	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,345	-	8,157	5,624
Utilities	1,051	2,595	812	876	2,885	272	1,473	871	1,029	763	1,209	2,168	16,004	13,984
Other	321	698	1,625	3,703	6,694	959	1,526	2,099	1,916	875	688	3,083	24,186	51,502
Wages	10,863	9,542	9,695	10,152	14,671	9,606	10,019	9,691	10,041	14,354	9,835	10,418	128,887	113,214
Total Expenses	12,234	12,834	16,944	14,731	24,250	10,837	13,019	12,662	12,985	15,993	15,076	15,668	177,233	184,324
Net Income (Loss)	1,140	(193)	1,464	(456)	(13,592)	(1,192)	1,167	(1,351)	2,997	(2,841)	15,393	(3,762)	(1,226)	(17,026)

General Offering Budget Comparison	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year to Date
General Offering Actual	12,382	29,083	11,065	167,656
General Offering Budget	15,298	15,298	15,298	183,576
Over (Short)	(2,916)	13,785	(4,233)	(15,920)
Non General Fund Restricted Donations			5,325	5,325



FUN-RAISER AUCTION: A BIG THING

We will have a community (public) Charity Auction on Sunday, February 19, starting with a delicious meal at 11:00am, and then our auction will start at noon. Proceeds from the auction will go to support our ministry for this year.

Everyone--whether or not you're part of Mohawk Church--is invited to all of it! You can bring food to share, and join in the feasting, too. You can contribute items to be auctioned, and also bid on items. Who knows, you might come away with the biggest bargain of the day!

This will be a BIG auction, and we're looking forward to it bringing us BIG results, all while we're having BIG fun. Mark your calendar in BIG letters. Invite your friends and neighbors, since it's an auction for everyone!

The Finance Committee is hoping each Mohawk Church household will contribute at least one auction item. Examples: home-made food items (canned, baked, cooked, etc.), handmade items (quilts, scarves, etc.), old/unused but working farm equipment, gift baskets, certificates for future services (tree trimming, weeding, cleaning, etc.), unwanted (new) Christmas gifts, unwanted vehicles... the list is only limited by our imagination. Let's be creative, aim high, trust God, and make it a BIG success!

February


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2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Office hours 9am-2pm	3	4
Worship 9am * Sunday School 10:15 Rescheduled SPRC Meeting 10:15am	5 Office hours 9am-2pm	6 Office hours 9am-2pm	8	9 Office hours 9am-2pm	10	11 Valentines Dinner at Cammack Station, 6pm
Worship 9am * w/Communion Sunday School 10:15 Super Bowl Sunday	12 Office hours 9am-2pm	13 Office hours 9-2	15	16 Office hours 9am-2pm FH/K Bunco 12pm	17	18 Setup for Auction 10:30
Worship 9am * Sunday School 10:15 Lunch & Charity Auction 11:00 Cool Clovers 4-H 3:00	19 Office hours 9am-2pm	20 Office hours 9am-2pm	22  Service 7:00pm	23 Office hours 9am-2pm	24	25
Worship 9am * Sunday School 10:15	26 Office hours 9am-2pm	27 Office hours 9am-2pm	28 Office hours 9am-2pm	<p> * After worship on Sundays, we have refreshments. Sunday school is approximately 10:15-11:00am </p> <p> Worship with us in-person Or visit online at: 9am Sundays </p> 		



INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSINGS/DELAYS

‘Tis the season for hazardous weather. In the event of weather-related closings or delays of worship services, the announcement will be on local TV stations as early as possible. Tune in to Channel 13- WTHR (NBC) and Channel 59- WXIN (FOX, CBS-4), which may not be the actual station number, depending on your cable/streaming service, so check your local listings. (Should other kinds of meetings deem cancelling, you will be notified by the committee/team chairperson or group leader.) We will also get the word out about worship service cancelations via email and Facebook, plus by phone for those who are not online. Since weather can vary greatly, it may still be unsafe where you are even if the church does remain open. Please use your best judgment to ensure your family’s safety.

