



# THE *August 2023* MESSENGER

 **MOHAWK**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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*[From Our Pastor]*

## THE DOG DAYS

*“Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you. Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame.” -- Isaiah 47:13b-14a (TNIV)*

The “dog days of summer” are upon us. Ever wonder where that phrase came from? It’s actually from the ancient Romans, who marked this time of year with the appearance of Sirius, known as the Dog Star. What started out as “the days of the Dog Star” became “the dog days of summer” over time.

Lately, I’ve been hearing people talk about the stars, not the Hollywood kind, but the celestial ones. They talked about how their future or their fate was in the stars. Although I don’t think they were all that serious about it, they were referring to astrology.

When I was a boy, I started to dabble in astrology. I bought one of those grocery-check-out astrology guides, and read my daily horoscopes. It didn’t take me long to figure out there really was nothing of substance to it.

Why am I writing about astrology? Well, it IS in the Bible, but not everything in the Bible is desirable. Adultery, incest, war, and a lot of other bad things are also in the Bible, but that doesn’t mean we should strive for them! The scripture verse quoted above shows that the Bible takes a dim view of astrology and astrologers, since they go against God as the authority of our future. For some people, sadly, astrology has become their god.

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, we need to guard ourselves and who or what we choose to follow. May we always and only follow the Lord our God, because only our living, loving God knows our future, not some distant, inanimate star or planet.

If you see someone getting into astrology, let them know there is a better, truer, more godly way to move into the future. Jesus Christ said He would be with us *always*, so it’s far better getting into Him!

His,  
Pastor Kerry

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

“**HERO HOTLINE**” is in the rear-view mirror! We had about 30 kids each night, and 14 were able to come back for Sunday’s VBS Celebration! At that time, I thanked several people who volunteered their time - but of course, I forgot some! Here’s the list of everyone I can think of, in no particular order: **Gail Stanley** for making our cool car and leading the Bible story time; **Mike Stanley** and **Sam Williams** for Games; our additional “blast crew”, **Jim & Shawn Lovins**; **Laura Phares**, for providing and leading Crafts, along with **Kelly Paugh** and **Leslie Dalton**; **Terry Ramsey** for Science time; **Isabella Alvarez** for taking care of Snacks; our group leaders, **Becky Holman**, **Caylan Martin**, **Katie Hooker**, and **Ashley Schenck**; our fearless preschool leaders, **Lucinda Blair**, **Rhonda Beeker**, **Myra Williams**, **Kelly Harness**, **Jen Peyton**, **Amanda Williams**; **Sandy Plank** with registration; **Leisa Harmon**, **Marcia Brown**, & **Chris Gray**, who helped wherever needed; **Susan Edwards**, **Nikki Ward**, and **Debi Lane** for helping with decorations the week before; **Bryon Hartzog**, who was our puppeteer for Super Meer; **Holly Plank** in the sound room; our kitchen crew, **Amy Lovins**, **Rosie Hunt**, & **Diana Hartzog**; our young people who assisted where needed – **Ainsley Martin**, **Elizabeth Alvarez**, **Shawn Lovins**, **Emily Lovins**, **Madison Hartzog**, and **Henley Shultz**; **Burl and Tammy Bearhope**, helping to setup the Sunday before, and **Chuck Dix & Josh Plank** for helping to tear down after the celebration service. Thanks again to **all** those who donated items and money. Finally, **Pastor/Husband Kerry O’Brien**, who supported me at home when I was swamped at church, as he did cooking, cleaning, laundry, as well as being a terrific PASTOR MAN, who entertained us all and withstood the Pastor Blaster!





## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE & GROW IN AUGUST**

Can you be a Greeter, Song Leader, Liturgist, Sound-room tech (you will be trained!), or can you facilitate Children's Church? August has many openings. Click the link to sign up: [Mohawk United Methodist Church: MUMC Worship Opportunities To Serve \(signupgenius.com\)](http://Mohawk United Methodist Church: MUMC Worship Opportunities To Serve (signupgenius.com)) or contact the church office.



### **OUTDOOR "CAMP" WORSHIP**

You're going to want to be in worship on August 13. As the final outdoor worship service of the year, weather permitting, we're going to have a ton of fun! We'll have a "CAMP" themed service, singing some favorite camp songs as our hymns. We'll have communion, and we'll also bless our newly-installed steeple cross.

Afterwards, in our Fellowship Hall, we'll have a good old-fashioned pitch-in meal. It will be picnic style, so you bring your whole meal and the church will have dinnerware and water. As you're able, bring enough food to share, in case we have folks come who didn't know to bring food. Put it on your calendar and be sure to invite your family and friends. We're going to have a great morning of worship and fellowship!

## **TRUSTEE COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **Many things have been accomplished in the last month:**

The tree on the west side was removed after a large limb broke off in the July windstorm.

The steeple cross was installed.

The wood on the shelter house has been sealed.

The new office computers have been installed.

The driveway on the west side of the church was sealcoated.

**Summer mowing** - Most slots from Aug 26 through September are blank. We really appreciate all those who give their time, equipment use, and gas. The schedule is in Fellowship Hall and is also online at Signup Genius. [Mohawk United Methodist Church: Mohawk UMC Mowing Schedule \(signupgenius.com\)](http://Mohawk United Methodist Church: Mohawk UMC Mowing Schedule (signupgenius.com))



2	Lorraine Ewing	30	Leisa Harmon,
6	Gerald Phares		Helen Jackson
17	Nora Blair	31	Brooke Lane
20	Tim Plank		

4	Blake & Ashley Thompson
18	Armin & Sherry Apple
27	Ben & Connie Wilson
29	Chuck & Leanne Dix

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

## FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

We are at a negative \$5,468 as of the end of June. This is \$7,500 better than last year! Offerings are up \$4,000 and the auction income was \$8,000.

Mohawk United Methodist Church Finances														
	2023													2022
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Yr to Date	Yr to Date
<b>Income:</b>														
General Offering	19,758	15,558	11,549	14,286	9,422	8,289							78,863	74,864
Other	553	8,391	989	796	908	332	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,969	4,139
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20,311</b>	<b>23,949</b>	<b>12,538</b>	<b>15,082</b>	<b>10,330</b>	<b>8,621</b>							<b>90,832</b>	<b>79,002</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>														
Tithe	2,272	1,789	1,328	1,643	-	-							7,032	4,813
Utilities	1,931	2,321	551	758	849	1,569							7,978	8,490
Other	1,054	670	1,453	2,886	10,985	3,002	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,049	13,999
Wages	9,635	9,864	9,841	9,523	13,346	9,029							61,239	64,529
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>14,892</b>	<b>14,644</b>	<b>13,173</b>	<b>14,811</b>	<b>25,179</b>	<b>13,600</b>							<b>96,299</b>	<b>91,831</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>5,419</b>	<b>9,306</b>	<b>(635)</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>(14,850)</b>	<b>(4,979)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(5,468)</b>	<b>(12,828)</b>
<b>Budget Comparison</b>														
General Offering Budget	16,002	16,002	16,002	16,002	16,002	16,002							96,012	91,788
Over (Short)	3,757	(444)	(4,453)	(1,716)	(6,580)	(7,713)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(17,149)	(16,924)
<b>Non General Fund Restricted Donations</b>														
	1,990	285	-	2,000	1,265	165							5,705	-

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS



**The Occasional Blues Band**

**6-8pm, August 5**

**Music At Mohawk** – Mohawk UMC  
2045 W 400 N, Greenfield

Bring: lawn seating & refreshments  
**FREE !!! Come Join the Party!!**

**The HUTSONS**

**6-8pm, August 12**

**Music At Mohawk** – Mohawk UMC  
2045 W 400 N, Greenfield

Bring: lawn seating & refreshments  
**FREE !!! Come Join the Party!!**

Music @ Mohawk is continuing to bring free concerts to the shelter house. On August 5, we have the Occasional Blues Band, playing blues, rock, jazz, and more. On August 12, we have The Hutsons, with a variety of music and testimony. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs, and snacks and come to enjoy great music. The kids are welcome to play on the playground or toss a ball or Frisbee on the lawn behind the seating. (In case of rain, we will move to Fellowship Hall.

## MEN'S GROUP GOLF OUTING

On **September 16**, our men's group will have our next event. This time, it's going to be a golf outing. Guys, before you say you're not good enough to play in an outing, understand that we're calling it the "Hackers and Duffers" outing for good reason! So, mark the date down and SIGN UP in the Fellowship Hall or contact the office. Cost is \$50/golfer, payable at the course. Tee off is 1pm at Arrowhead Golf Course, and prizes will be awarded afterwards. It's going to be a great afternoon, so come on out and invite other guys to join us!

