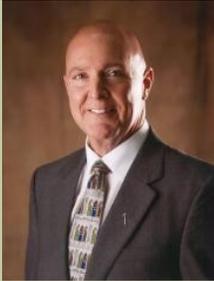




APRIL 2022

# The MESSENGER

A publication of Mohawk United Methodist Church



## “GUEST” WHAT SEASON IT IS

<sup>1</sup> Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup> Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. - Hebrews 13:1  
-2 (TNIV)

Did you know we're in a season within a season?

The season of Lent is also a season for newcomers to check out churches. That means we will probably see folks worshiping with us that we may not know or folks that nobody invited. Isn't that a great opportunity?!?

One of the many reasons I love being pastor at Mohawk Church is that we are a faith community who is receptive to having new people join us in worship. I've often heard it said around here that we are a warm/friendly/welcoming church.

It reminds me about a study that was done a few years ago with hundreds of U.S. congregations. In this particular study, newcomers rated how friendly a congregation was, and members of that congregation also rated themselves on their own friendliness. Do you know what the study found?

Virtually every congregation rated themselves as friendly, even ones that newcomers rated as unfriendly! Why the discrepancy? Newcomers gauged the friendliness toward themselves (newcomers) while members of "unfriendly" congregations only rated their friendliness toward one another to

the exclusion of any newcomers who were there.

Those unfriendly congregations followed verse 1 of Hebrews 13 but not verse 2. They were so preoccupied "loving one another" that they forgot to show hospitality to the strangers in their midst!

Dear friends, let's be sure Mohawk Church follows BOTH verses, especially in this high season of newcomers in church. There's a simple way to make people feel welcome: Don't treat them as *visitors* but as *guests*. Guests are welcomed. Valued. They are expected, and they're expected to come back. Try to make every newcomer your very own guest. Invite the in and invite the back.

We can't ignore newcomers, but we don't have to overwhelm them, either. All you need to do is treat them as your guest. The rest should come more easily.

Being The Church of Jesus Christ means loving one another AND showing hospitality to strangers.

We might welcome angels in that process, but we will certainly be regarded as angels by those newcomers. May we all make it so!

His,  
*Pastor Kerry*

**HOW** you can  
**HELP**  
**-UKRAINE-**

To help the people in need in Ukraine, you can give financial gifts to and through Mohawk Church, or directly to the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR). As we gather donations, we will send it all to UMCOR's International Disaster Response and Recovery effort.

To donate directly to UMCOR's effort, either search the internet for "UMCOR" and click on their link to the International Disaster Response and Recovery, or use this link: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/ukraine/>

Remember, 100% of what you give goes directly to this relief effort. Thank you for blessing others in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.



- 3 Bryon Hartzog  
Jason Musselman
- 4 Bruce Beeker
- 7 Shawn Lovins  
Glen Thompson
- 13 Melissa Cain
- 15 Steve Vail
- 18 Alyse Vail
- 19 Candice Bauer
  
- 24 Erin Cain
- 28 Jean Musselman



- 13 Dan & Katie Hooker
- 19 Dan & Candice Bauer

If we have missed a birthday or anniversary, please contact the office so we can make the correction and be sure to include them for next year.

## Current COVID Status

Our Administrative Council met Thursday, March 17. One item discussed was our COVID-19 status when in the building. It was decided that we would make mask wearing

and social distancing optional now. Let's be sure to respect the decisions of others on their choice of precautions as we move forward together.

## Kid's Easter Egg Hunt

Our Children's Ministry Team will be holding an Easter egg hunt for all our children on Easter Sunday, April 17, after our 9am Easter service, starting right around 10:30am. We are looking for donations of individually-wrapped candies

to be put into plastic eggs. Can you donate some candies? Please put your donation in the collection bins in our Fellowship Hall. Thanks in advance for your help!



## Holy Week Activities

There will be a lot of things going on during Holy Week this year. You won't want to miss a single one of them!

Palm Sunday, April 10, will have a children's palm processional to begin the service, complete with everyone waving palms to encourage the kids. Then we'll have special services at 7:00pm on Maundy Thursday as well as Good Friday.

Easter Sunday, April 17, will start early, with a 7:00am "sunrise" service our youth will lead. It will be outdoors, in our shelter house, weather permitting. That will be followed by a hearty and deli-

cious Easter breakfast. Our 9:00am service will overflow with joy as we celebrate Christ's resurrection - His victory over sin and death.

We'll wrap things up with a children's Easter egg hunt that starts after the service, about 10:30am. Weather permitting, the hunt will be outdoors, too.

This is a GREAT time of year to invite your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers (or anyone else you know who isn't currently attending a church!) to join you in worship. We offer a safe, loving, Christian community - something many people are searching for these days.

## Easter Sunrise Service

The youth will once again be presenting Sunrise Service Easter Morning at 7am. If weather permits the service will be outside in the shelter house. Breakfast will be provided by the youth and 3D class between the two services. Please come out and support the youth of our church.

## Save the Dates!

Our VBS will be Monday, July 11 through Thursday, July 14. This year we will go back to doing it in the evenings. That way, more people will be available to help!

VBS is such a fun and fulfilling opportunity to share God's love with kids. It takes



a LOT of volunteers doing many jobs, large and small, to make it a great time for everyone!!

Please consider being a part of this special event and let Lynne O'Brien know if you're in!!!

## Thank You

Thank you for the lovely flowers and all the cards. A very special thanks for all the prayers. The church family support is very much appreciated.

*Bob & Ramona Bennett*

## Finance Update

Mohawk United Methodist Church Finances

	2022		2021	
	Jan	Feb	Year to Date	Year to Date
<b>Income:</b>				
General Offering	13,019	12,155	25,174	24,988
Other	355	486	842	1,936
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>13,374</b>	<b>12,641</b>	<b>26,016</b>	<b>26,924</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Tithe	-	-	-	2,874
Utilities	1,051	2,595	3,645	3,039
Other	321	698	1,019	1,139
Wages	10,863	9,542	20,405	17,056
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>12,234</b>	<b>12,834</b>	<b>25,069</b>	<b>24,108</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>(193)</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>2,815</b>

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you help lead Children's Church after Pastor Kerry's Children's Message on Sundays? This is a small commitment of time, and a big help. It usually lasts 20-25 minutes, ending at the close of service. You can come up with your own ideas, or lesson plans and materials can be provided. It would be AWESOME if you could commit to one Sunday per month (ex. every third Sunday). That way, we're not scrambling at the last minute. Men, women, youth, grandparents - all are welcomed to this ministry.

See Lynne O'Brien with any questions.



**LOST**—Blue Totes jacket with black flannel lining missing from coat rack in entry.

If found, please return to Marge Credille or leave for Carolyn in the office.

Thanks!



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The MESSENGER

## Holy Week Activities

**Palm Sunday** – April 10, 9:00 am, with Kid’s Palm Processional

**Maundy Thursday** with Communion – April 14, 7:00 pm

**Good Friday “Tenebrae” Service** – April 15, 7:00 pm

**Easter Sunrise** – 7:00 am in the sanctuary

**Easter Resurrection Celebration** – 9:00 am

We will hold an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Easter Sunday morning.  
Be sure to bring the kids for this fun and exciting event.

Don’t miss our delicious **Easter Morning Breakfast**  
on Easter Sunday, April 17, in the Fellowship Hall  
immediately following our Sunrise Service.