

Olive Branch United Methodist Church

March 2018

*“Caring People, Sharing Jesus,
Transforming the World through Joyful Discipleship”*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Office phone 513- 932-3943	Office hours Wednesday and Friday 9am-1pm	1 United Methodist Women 12pm PPRC 7pm	2 Girl Scout cookie drive- thru 4:30-6:30pm	3 Mission Team through March 10
4 Breakfast at 9am Ladies Night Out Damon's 6:30pm	5 Ladies study at Kathy Largent's 7p	6	7 No Choir	8 "War Room" study 11am	9	10
11 UMCOR Sunday Girl Scouts 4p Cub Scouts 6	12	13 Outreach at Mary Haven 7pm 4-H 6:30pm	14 Vision Team 7p Choir 7:30p	15 "War Room" study 11am Serving at Your Father's Kitchen 5:30pm	16 Office closed	17
18 Pie Sunday Flower order due Confirmation class 3:30- 6:30 at Clks	19	20	21 Office closed	22 Mother- Daughter Banquet planning 10am	23	24 Painting Event at Clarksville 1pm
25 Palm Sunday	26	27	28	29 "War Room" study 11am Pizza 6:30p at OB Worship 7:30	30 Good Friday worship at Clks 7:30p	31 Egg Hunt at Clarksville 12:30pm

Pastor Debbie Kaylor
7315 Wilmington Rd., Oregonia OH 45054
(513) 932-3943
www.olivebranchumc.com

March Prayer Calendar for Clarksville/Olive Branch

Dear God, today I pray for _____. Please surround them with your blessings and cause them to be whom you would have them to be, and to serve you as you would have them to serve. Protect, comfort, forgive and love them. I pray that my prayer would be heard for the benefit of your church on earth, your kingdom that is to come and the glory of your Son, our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

				1	2	3
				Bauer, Ron & Diane Peckham, Caleb & Jenn	Bogan, Bill & Carol Phelps, Bill & Diana, Chloe, Isabelle, Noelle	Calhoun, Robyn Plenos, Edgar & Joy, Megan, Carly
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Caplinger, Joyce Plymire, Shirley	Clark, Herman & Gail Plymire, Kris	Crothers, John & Doris Rowland, John & Scarlett	Crothers, Lindsay, Elle, Ian Schaefer, Paul & Judy	Dare, Jim Schnecker, Barb	Davenport, Barb Schnecker, David & Krista	Davenport, Darren & Kara, Daniel, Rebekah Jayne, Alayna, Drew Allen
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Davis, Patty Schnecker, Neil & Judy	Derrick, Don & Barbara Schnecker, Nels	Dobbs, Shane & Jennifer Selter, Bill & Pat	Hammons, Paula Settlemyre, Bill	Harrison, Dennis & Lisa Settlemyre, Dale & Jill, Ali, Drew, Jared, Justin	Hillard, Velma Spradling, Jim & Janet	Homan, Jeff & Lisa Stevens, Mike & Debbie
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Hovermale, Gary & Norma Storts, Dana	Hubbell, Audrey Streitmatter, Jeff & Ginger, Mark	Hughes, Kimberly, Luke, Samantha Synan, Becky, Kathy	Jennings-DeMange, Carrie, Ella Taylor, Greg & Jenn, Davis, Embry	Jennings, Gary & Margret Thomas, Gary & Teri	Kaylor, Pastor Debbie Thompson, Evelyn	Keenan, Terry & Carolyn Thompson, Ken
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Kiphart, Carolyn Utrecht, Vince	Kratzer, Jim Ulrich, John & Nancy, Kate, Will, Caleb, Isabella	Kreider, Pat & Amy, Marty, Macy Widman, Florence	Lanham, Brenda Williams, Dale & Sarah, Thomas, Maggie	McGowan, Charles & Joan Wills, Ron & Rhea	McVey, Dale & Robyn Ames, Michele & Jon Pagnozzi, Harper, Christo	Milner, Helen Ames, Shirley

Happy Birthday!

March	1	Pastor Steve Cann
	2	Dan Malcolm
	9	Evelyn Thompson
	13	Sarah Largent-Clark Hailey Bennett
	15	Ashley Lennon-O'Connor Bailey Hudson
	16	Edgar Plenos
	20	Adam Baker
	30	Janet Spradling Shirley Jeffers

birthdays with cards and well wishes. Hope to see you then!

You are invited to our Mother-Daughter Banquet planning meeting on Thursday, **March 22 at 10am.** Please bring your creative ideas for theme and program, as we are fresh out. The banquet will be held on May 11, so please save the date.

As you are cleaning house this spring, please box up unwanted items and save them for our **Rummage Sale on June 14 and 15.** Thanks so much!

President Karen Doney

Happy Anniversary!

March	18	Ronnie & Linda Fox
	22	Scott & Cindy Hagemeyer
	30	Bill & Pat Selter
	31	Mark & Kim Branan

Thank you

Dear Olive Branch members,

Thank you so much for the planter for Mom's funeral. I will take it to one of my dental offices. The meal you provided for us was so incredible. Wade and I were very touched and overwhelmed by your kindness. We shall always remember it. Thank you so very much.

The family of Dorothy McCarren
Wade and Alma

Be sure to read the latest meeting minutes from the Trustees and United Methodist Men and Women on the bulletin board.



Clarksville UMC holds their Food Pantry on the second **Thursday** of the month at 6pm. **They pass out about 25 boxes of cereal each month, and we are their cereal church.** So when shopping for groceries please pick up an extra box of cereal (any kind) for the food pantry and put it in the bin in the Entry.

United Methodist Women

Membership envelopes are in your church mailboxes. Ladies, we invite you all to join, even if you aren't available for our daytime meetings. We appreciate your support!

All ladies are invited to join us on **Sunday, March 4 at 6:30pm** at Damon's in Wilmington for a Ladies Night Out. We'll celebrate March

Monthly Mission Table



To help us focus on missional giving, our Church Council has decided to exhibit a Monthly Mission Table in the front Entry. There will be a display of that month's charity and hand-outs to help guide us when shopping. We are so blessed in our lives; won't you please pick up an item or two each month when shopping to help those less fortunate?

Thank you for supporting our monthly missions! This month's mission is **Jackson Area Ministries.** Last year they delivered 42,500 pounds of seed potatoes, 41,472 tomato plants and supported 3,601 individual gardens with donated seeds. Please drop your seeds in the basket in the Entry by **April 8.** A list of the recommended seeds is available by the display. Thank you!



Holy Week Schedule

Friends,

I've been leading a Confirmation experience at Clarksville with six youth from Clarksville and one from Olive Branch. It has been a great joy to spend time with the young people and their mentors. Planning Confirmation always makes me consider the most important elements of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

I was sharing with them my very quick summary of much of the Old Testament the other evening. Here is a conclusion that I want to share with you. God's desire was to build a faithful community that was so loving and just that they would be a light to the nations. It was God's hope that all the other nations of the world would take notice and imitate the Israelites and build loving, just communities in their locations. When Jesus came to earth, he too, worked to build community through relationships. He would go off to pray by himself occasionally but mostly, he spent his time teaching people, especially his closest disciples how to love God and love others. God's desire for people to be in community is why an important aspect of the Vision Teams' work focused on building relationships with our neighbors.

There are many of our neighbors who aren't connected with a community of love. We need to become their friends so that we can invite them into community in a way that will make their lives better. This might be through special events like craft nights, family fun nights or other special events. It is why we will offer such things as DivorceCare and Financial Peace University again—places to have a common interest/need and connect with others. We dream that our churches will be busy places with many ways to connect with the wants and needs of our community. Once people have become comfortable being in a loving welcoming community of one kind, we might just have planted the seeds that will invite them to join our worshiping community and become a disciple of Jesus Christ. And that, is our ultimate calling: to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Hoping you'll join us in this adventure! Debbie

Holy Thursday on March 29 will be celebrated at Olive Branch with pizza and salad at 6:30pm and worship at 7:30pm

Good Friday on March 30 will be celebrated at Clarksville at 7:30pm.

Clarksville will host an **Egg Hunt on March 31 at 12:30pm.**

Easter Sunrise on April 1 will be at Camp Joy in the Ficke Pavilion at 7am, followed by normal worship times at both churches.

Holy Reading

Pastor Debbie introduced us to the concept of Holy Reading or *Lectio Divina*, on February 18. Its purpose is to help us engage more fully with God and His Word. A full description of the practice can be read at:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/scripture-engagement/lectio-divina/home>.

Pastor Debbie condensed the concept for us into these steps:

1. Pray for God to reveal what is needed.
2. Read slowly and carefully, stopping if a word, phrase or idea catches your attention.
3. Contemplate that 'stop' and then move on, still reading slowly.
4. Meditate on what this passage is saying.
5. Read the passage again slowly at least once or twice more.
6. Determine what the message is to carry with you today. This may be a verse, phrase or action.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are "*The After People*." They come alongside you, your friends, neighbors, coworkers or relatives, and provide comfort and support for as long as needed after heartbreaks or other life events.

You are invited to attend an introductory workshop on Saturday, **April 7th** at Faith Community UMC in Xenia from 9am-1pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the Olive Branch office door, and the church will cover the cost. Please sign up by **March 25**.

Our Mission Team



Volunteers pictured are Dave Emmett, Tom Lennon, Keith Mealy and Judy Schaefer

Please keep our mission team in your prayers March 2 – March 10 as they journey south and serve in the Picayune, MS and Slidell, LA communities.

Welcome Bag

Our Nurture Chair, Julie Malcolm, has engineered a “Welcome Bag” for our first-time visitors. It will include such items as an Olive Branch brochure and newsletter, copy of the Upper Room devotional, paper and crayons, a treat, Olive Branch pen, Kleenex, etc. There are a couple ready to go on the office shelf. Please see Julie, Karen or Peggy if you greet a visitor so we can acknowledge them with a welcome bag. Our hope is that their visit will be a pleasant one and that they will return to worship with us again. Thank you!

Foods Resource Bank

As most of you know, our church family participates in a wonderful growing project to support the mission of Foods Resource Bank. This is a 14-acre field owned by the Houck family that the Uetrecht family plants, tends and harvests each year. It is along Wilmington Road, just east of the church a bit and can be distinguished by the Matthew 25 sign.

Dan Uetrecht will get us cost data soon, but until then, feel free to contribute towards the planting/harvesting costs. They generally run a bit more than \$200/acre. Make your checks out to Olive Branch UMC with “FRB” on the memo line.

See www.FoodsResourceBank.org for info.

Why we need Lent

Ash Wednesday, this year on 14 February, marks the start of the forty-day period of Lent that runs up to Easter Day. Some Christians follow a longstanding tradition of fasting during Lent; denying themselves something – chocolate, alcohol or even social media – that is good but not essential. Today, this whole idea strikes some people as bizarre but in fact the idea of Lent and fasting has perhaps never been more relevant.

Our modern culture is fixated not simply on having things, but on having them *now*. Advertisements encourage us not to save but to buy on credit and have what we want immediately: instant food, instant messaging, real-time meetings and instant downloads of music, films or books. We don't ‘do’ waiting anymore. Whether it is food, pleasure or possessions, we expect to have them all *now*.

Yet there is something very dangerous about this demand for ‘instant gratification’ and it's not just Christians who say so. The reality is that all good things (whether food, pleasure or possessions) are truly at their best when they are taken at the right time. Intentionally delaying a pleasure (and that's what fasting in Lent is all about) is a wise thing. The ability to postpone our gratification may actually be critical to making us fulfilled human beings. After all, if we want our pleasures now, we are going to struggle with things like learning to play the piano or acquiring a foreign language where it may be months before we can tap out a tune or engage in a meaningful conversation on holiday.

Postponing a pleasure may even have been fundamental in making the human race what it is. A great breakthrough in history was when people realized that instead of eating grains of wheat or rice they could plant them and wait a few months until the crops sprang up. The discovery of cultivation allowed settlements, farms and ultimately civilization to flourish.

It's not just history that teaches us about the disadvantages of instant gratification; there is

also some hard psychological evidence on the subject. In the Stanford Marshmallow Experiment in the 1970s a group of four-year-old children took part in a psychological study. Each child was given one marshmallow and promised that, if they could wait twenty minutes before eating it, they would be given a second one. Some children could wait the twenty minutes and others couldn't. Records were kept and sixteen years later children were revisited; those who had been able to delay eating were found to score significantly higher in academic tests. The ability to say 'no, not now' seems to be vital to both civilization and education.

Lent helps us to learn to say 'no, not now'; it teaches us self-control and an expectation and an anticipation of what God may reveal to us. Lent isn't just a human exercise but a sacred discipline.

J. John, Reverend Canon, www.canonjohn.com

Lent with K4J

s r c o n f e s s i o n s n g
 n e g s j q t r k e o p a y c
 r y o o n e k t x i f i c r l
 o a d m o o z z x o l p r e u
 h r b y k d i i r s m x i v a
 t p c t h s f t q l p s f b n
 f n r d u i y r a k t o i c u
 o z w s c d x c i t i z c r g
 n d e u a c n l k d s d e o d
 w j r y c i l o h t a c r s a
 o c s a s h e s b q r y e s b
 r t n e l c w v d i w z r q y
 c h i b y r j r o y b j g j a
 x t w v r y z v z l i l d l c
 i i p w u b k h v w k q e g p

Hidden Words:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Ashes | Good Friday |
| Bible | Jesus |
| Catholic | Lent |
| Confession | Love |
| Cross | Nails |
| Crown of Thorns | Prayer |
| Crucifixion | Sacrifice |
| Forty Days | Stations |

**Directions: Find all of the hidden words about
Lent in the puzzle!**