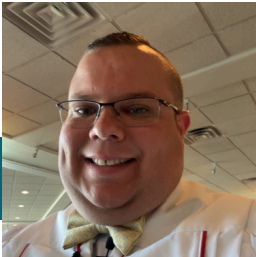


CHUM NEWS

March 2025 Newsletter

“Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us.”

(Matthew 6:12 CEB)



A Message from the Pastor...

Pastor Samuel Mohn

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where we focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. This year Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, and ends on Easter Sunday, April 20th. It's the 40 days before Easter, excluding Sundays, because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithing of time). After his baptism, Jesus was sent into the wilderness by the Spirit where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During his time there, he was tempted and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterwards, he was ready to begin his ministry. Maybe Jesus needed some time with God to sort through the major changes happening in his life and the world around him. Maybe he needed to get away from family, friends, and the familiar routine in order to see God (and himself) more clearly. Perhaps he wanted some intentional time with God as he searched for direction and answers. Like Jesus, we too need to take some serious time to pray and listen for God.

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in a life filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with social media, mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God. Lent is a time to “repent” -- to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus.

In our culture, the prevailing sentiment is that others need to change; as if everything else is the problem. True repentance demands an acknowledgement that the problem is within me. The world can change, and it begins in the heart of one person. So, Lent is a 40-day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart. Fasting, prayer and acts of service during Lent are ways of becoming more in tune with God.

Here are some ideas:

Abstain or Fast: “Giving something up for Lent” is a common practice for many Christians. Often, we give up a favorite food or try to kick a bad

habit during Lent, but don't confine yourself to food or habits. Can you abstain from gossip or complaining for Lent? What about defensive attitudes, fear, or anxiety? You probably won't be perfect at this, but when these attitudes begin to take hold of your day, pause for prayer.

Make Something: Some of us reflect and pray best when our hands are busy. Get back in the workshop and spend time cutting, sanding, and gluing. Sit at a piano and let the music flow. Take out the paints, glue, clay, and other supplies to create a work of art. As you create, give thanks to our Creator who longs to be in relationship with you.

Be Still: Others find meaning in stillness. Light a candle and pause before the presence of God. Take a yoga class. Enjoy a cup of coffee on your deck. Listen for the voice of God.

Clean Something: Lent is a good time to get a jump on your spring cleaning. Spend an hour with the junk drawer, that cabinet at work, or organizing the files on your computer. As you remove things you no longer need and reorder those you do, be mindful of the ways God "cleans" us. The Bible tells us "As far as east is from west — that's how far God has removed our sin from us" (Psalm 103:12, CEB). As we get things in order, we remember that Jesus gave his life so that we might be free from our sins and know new Life.

Burn Something: When you finish cleaning, take some of the papers you no longer need to the fireplace. Light them and watch as they turn to ashes. The ashes in the fireplace are not the same as the ones used in Ash Wednesday worship but can serve as a similar reminder that your sins are forgiven. As the smoke rises up the chimney, know your prayers are rising to God as well.

Forgive and Seek Forgiveness: As we pray for God's grace, we should also seek forgiveness from those we have wronged. Lent is a great time to go to those you have hurt. It is also a wonderful time to forgive another. Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us" (Matthew 6:12 CEB). Maybe while you are burning those old papers, you might also burn a grudge. If appropriate, let the person know you forgive them. Remember, however, that forgiveness has much more to do with us than the one who offended us.

This Lent, determine what clutters your calendar or your life and fast from it. Serve God by serving someone else. And, intentionally savor your quiet time with God in prayer.

Lenten Blessings, Sam

Outreach T-Shirts



If you would like a Church Hill Outreach T-shirt, or if the one you have is stained or worn out, please sign up with your shirt size. The new shirts will be 50/50 polyester/cotton blend. I have a few shirts available and plan to order more soon. The cost is already covered by donation. We just ask you join us for outreach activities and wear your shirt!

Adult sizes available: Sm, Med, Lg, XL, 2XL
Youth size available: Large

Welch's Grape Juice and UMC Communion

Using Welch's grape juice for communion in the United Methodist Church has deep historical and cultural roots. This practice reflects the broader societal changes regarding alcohol consumption and shift in the churches' use of intoxicating drink for the sacrament. As the temperance movement of the late nineteenth century grew, many churches moved away from permitting or requiring intoxicating beverages in their liturgy (Gale, n.d.). United Methodists today use large quantities of grape juice during summer youth events. Their close theological cousins, the Southern Baptists, also prohibit the use of wine for communion.

Dr. Thomas B. Welch, a Methodist dentist and lay preacher, was central to this change. In the late 19th century, he developed a process of pasteurizing grape juice to keep it from fermenting, and thus "purifying" the beverage from any alcohol. Welch's innovation coincided directly with the temperance movement, which sought to rid America of the "demon drink," and it was he, along with his son, who first successfully marketed their unfermented grape juice. Nonetheless, in the United Methodist Church, the beverage became an essentially unchallenged substitute for wine in the sacrament of Holy Communion. It was embraced for theological and health reasons and as an alternative for recovering alcoholics.

Choosing grape juice over wine signifies more than just a nod to the principles of the temperance movement. It also serves as a kind of liturgical hospitality. And United Methodists aren't the only communion-partaking body that would say so. Alongside movements like Alcoholics Anonymous and Families Anonymous, different ways of viewing liturgical hospitality have long and

family-centered traditions that go alongside with the provision of an option in place of wine. Thus, no one need feel like they are missing out on or excluded from something as simple and yet as divine as a little taste of heaven.

What's Cookin with Pastor Sam?

Aglio e Olio with a Twist

- 1 pound spaghetti, enough oil to coat the pasta (I used canola Oil)
- 1/2 stick butter
- Lots of garlic (it is Aglio e olio)
- 1 pint grape tomatoes (Cut in half)
- 1 can large black olives (Cut in half)
- Homemade roasted red peppers. (or store bought if you are not an over achiever like Pastor Sam)

Heat the oil and butter until it's hot. Add the garlic for a few minutes, but don't let it burn. Add the tomatoes for a few more minutes and then the black olives until everything is heated. Don't cook the tomatoes too long or the skin will start to loosen. Do this once you drop the spaghetti in boiling water. Cook the spaghetti al dente then put in the pan with the garlic tomato olive mixture. Stir everything around until the spaghetti is well coated with the mixture. If it is too dry, add some more oil and/or butter. Sprinkle with grated Romano cheese and stir it around. Cut the roasted peppers into bite-size strips and add to the pasta mixture, then stir everything around again. Top everything with some more roasted pepper strips and some more grated Romano cheese. (optional) When I plated in my portion I drizzled some of the roasted pepper juice over my portion for a little extra flavor. Bon appétit!

March Birthdays

3/3 Ronald Baker

3/5 Jeannie Thomas

3/7 Gail McLaughlin,
Kenneth Miller

3/9 Barbara Gulas

3/15 Bonnie Wathen,
Christian Denning

3/16 Sharon Wathen

3/21 Shirley Neal,
Carol Pinney

3/22 Dorothy Schultz

3/26 Jane Doughton

3/30 Charles Dodge,
Nancy Smith

3/31 Ronald Edwards



Upcoming Events

- **King's Kids and Youth Group** has resumed on Wednesday nights. See below for details:
 - 4:45pm - start time
 - 6pm - family meal
 - 7pm - pickup time
- **Lessons in Religion: Embodied Sanctuary** - On March 6, 2025, Hiram College will host a lecture at 5:30p.m., featuring C. Stonebraker-Martinez, as part of their 2025 Lectures in Religion Series. C will be presenting a keynote, "Embodied Sanctuary," exploring the work of religious communities (past and present) serving and protecting immigrants, and the interconnections of justice and freedom in that work. This event is free and open to the public. The event will be hosted at Koritansky Hall on Hiram College's campus, 11715 Garfield Rd, Hiram, OH 44234.
- **Grief Share** begins March 6 through June 5 at 6pm on Thursday evenings. Contact Jan Ferry for details.
- Save the date for this year's **Health Fair**: Saturday March 22 in Church Hill's Dining Hall and Lobby area. See Julia Catchpole for details.
- The **Children's Fair** will be on Saturday, April 5th. See Terri West for details.

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 Bible Brew 10a Worship	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday 7-9 a ash on the dash 12 noon service 6:30 service	6 9:30 Pantry Set up 10:30 B. Study 6:30 Pantry Set up	7 Pantry 10- Noon Pastor Sam	8 COS
9 Spring Ahead 9:30 Bible Brew 10a Worship	10	11 Noon Lenten Study 6pm Lenten Study	12 4pm Chimes 4:45-6:30 KK/YG 7:30 Choir	13 10:30 B. Study BBall Game at LHS for Pantry 6p 6p Grief Share	14	15
16 9:30 Bible Brew 10a Worship	17 	18 Noon Lenten Study 6pm Lenten Study	19 4pm Chimes 4:45-6:30 KK/YG 7:30 Choir	20 10:30 B. Study Directory Photos 2-8pm 6p Grief Share	21 Directory Photos 2-8pm	22 Health Fair 10:30a-2:30p Directory Photos 10a-4p
23 9:30 Bible Brew 10a Worship	24	25 Noon Lenten Study 6pm Lenten Study	26 4pm Chimes 4:45-6:30 KK/YG 7:30 Choir	27 10:30 B. Study 6p Grief Share	28	29
30 9:30 Bible Brew 10a Worship	31					

Connect with us!

Website:

www.churchhillumc.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/
ChurchHillUMC](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchHillUMC)

Worship with us Sundays at 10am!

**Church Hill United
Methodist Church**

189 Churchill-Hubbard Rd.
Youngstown, OH 44505

Livestream available at:

[www.youtube.com/@churc
hillumc6144](https://www.youtube.com/@churchhillumc6144)

Our Team

Sam Mohn, Pastor

Jane Page, Director of
Worship

Carla Jenkins, Pianist

Terri West, Children's
Director

Deanna Slifka, Youth
Director

Joe Seifert, Sound Room
Tech

Charity Washington,
Custodian

Prayer Requests

Lee Elmo, Dora Baker, Ron Baker, Elaine (friend of Gay M.), Marlene Flickinger, Nancy Smith, Becky Paul, Helen Hess, David Moyers, Eileen Hawkins, Jeff Hawkins, Darlene Capitola, Andre Williams and Dianne, his mother, Jimmy Quinlan, Joette Sondheimer (Viv Seifert's sister), Les Thomas, Jane Doughton, Kevin Vara, Lori Vara, Carol Smith, Ron Miller (Ken Miller's cousin), Alma Knupp, DeeAnn (Carla Jenkins' sister), Samuel M, Clara Jones, John Baksa, Viv Seifert, Ellen Hardgrove, Carter Denning, the Essad family, Mark Hrabe, Julia Catchpole, Tiffany Orwig, Ed Lavin, Lori Furlong, and the students, teachers, military members and their families

Contact Linda Toepfer at 330-718-2361 for the current prayer list and to request prayers.

