

Minerva Messenger

From the Pastor's Pen

Minerva United Methodist Church
204 N. Main St., Minerva, OH 44657
Church 330-868-4940, Fax 330-868-4825
e-mail: minervaunc@frontier.com, website: minervaumc.org
Pastor Jonathan Williams
jonathan.lane.williams@gmail.com

As I write this, there is snow on the ground. [It might not be by the time you read this, but I'm sure you remember it.] There are icicles hanging in front of my windows, the air is frigid, the wind cuts like a knife, and the forecast is calling for more snow to fall in the next few days. My driveway and the church parking lot are both covered with ice, and the news is telling me that Texas lost electricity because they weren't ready for weather like this.

Winter is very much here right now.

But out the same window where I see icicles today, I can also see birds. And the same air that hurts my face is occasionally full of their songs, even when the temperature is in single digits.

Winter can be a trying time. It can be depressing, especially when the sky is grey. But there can also be winter days full of brilliant sunshine and cheerful birds. The cold weather and ice can make us feel more trapped than usual. And as we look out at the frozen world, we might be tempted to lose hope. It can be so easy to forget that spring is coming when winter is all we see.

Until we see the birds. They are not immune to the cold, but no matter the weather, they still sing. Jesus, in the sermon on the mount, reminds us that God who made the birds and loves them, made us, too, and loves us more than them. So, if the birds we occasionally see and hear were loved by God enough to give them the gift of song, even when the whole world around them is frozen solid, then there is hope.

Because God loves us, too – the same God whose love makes the birds sing.

And as their songs remind us of what God's love can do, they are also one way that God's love reaches us on a cold day: Their songs remind us that spring will come, and that God will still be with us until it does.

So may the love of God, and the songs that fill the cold, fill your heart to overflowing.

May they know we are Christians by our love.

Pastor Jonathan Williams



**Don't Forget
The Newsletter Deadline
Is The 17th Of Each Month.
Please Be Sure All Of Your
Information Is Turned In To
Me By That Date.
Thank You, Cheryl**

**For Easter,
we will once again be planting our
"Butterfly Garden",**

honoring our loved ones that have gone to be with God since the last time we did this. If you have lost a loved one in the past 2 years, and would like to have a butterfly put on the display, please submit names to the church office. Please be sure to include your own name with your request, so we know who the contact person is. Thank you



*Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear, an
The upward glancing of an eye
When none but God is near.*
James Montgomery

***Recent Prayers:** Steve Warth, Jim Hilverding, Jeff Burks, Michele Wisneiski, Harry Moyer, Bob Colloredo, Vernon & Lois Deininger, Jeremy Wilks, John Davis, Carol Pugh, Alvin Kinsey, Frank Sanor, Family/Frank Fleming, Family/Joan Dietrich, Don McLaughlin, Patricia Ankeny, Howard Snyder, Kelly Davis, Jess White, Ron Russell,



Greg Peach, Family/Cheryl Lovejoy, Jim Hazen, Eileen Cogan, Cyndy Lawson, Rachel Haas, Paul Kail, Bubba Morgan, Family/Beth Berger, Family/Betty Buck

***Continued Prayer:** Esther Albery, Pat Alexander, Amelia, Jackie Anderson, Nelda Andrews, Sue Apple, Mike B., David Baughman, Jean Bell, Sharon Bennett, Paul & Diane Binnig, Cathy Blitz, Brooke, Dale Caster, Chris Collins' Aunt, Ruth Ann Cox, Patti Davis, Jeff Dine, Gerald Fallot, Pam Farnsworth, Ruth Felger, Mr & Mrs Rick Foss, Pauline Green, Griffiths Family, Lois Hagge, Lee Hale, Marina Hart, Larry Hawk Sr., Connie/Charlie Hawkins, Hazelynn, Bev Hazen, Jim Hazen, Jeff Herstine, Jenny Hiles, Patricia Hoagland, Lea Hough, Pastor Lee Iden, Isaac, Heather Jakacki, Jack/Sandy Jarvis, Marie Kail, Jim Kienzle, Ellen Mary Kump, Laura/Family, Dolly Lowry, Jeff Maag, Linda, Madison, John Martin, Jim McCully, Dennis Miller, Linda Miller, Linda Miller, Pat Miller, Jeff Mitzel, Lucas Murphy, Jimmy Neidig, Matthew Peters, Gary Price, Jessica Ramsey, Travis Ramsey, Tyler Roach, Craig Rodgers, Corey Sells, Shirley, Signor Family, Chris Simms, Orin Slack, Harold Smith, Roland Smith, Claire/Virgil Springer, Mary Staib, Terry Stoffer, Sandi Wagner, Jerry Weber, Brody Williams, Cerianna Williamson, Carolyn/Hunter Wise/baby Logan, Dick Young,

***Loss of Loved One:** Family/Dave Miller, Donna Neidig/Family, Sandy Jarvis/Family, Jeanie/Heather Dominik & Family, Steve/Family, Family/Sue Nastari, Family/Stella O'Brien, Family/Margaret Gotschall, Family/Kolten Brunner, Pastor Jonathan & Nicole/Family, Gretchen (Kump) Brothers/Family, Kay Stoffer/Family, Shirley & Steve Warth/Family, Family/Dave Bondurant, Bob Colloredo /Family, Diane Phillips/Family, Family of Phil Kintigh Family/Irene LeMoine, Family/Danny Cruise, Bob Colloredo/Family, Family/Linda Stalder, Barb Messner/Family, DS Cara Stultz-Costello/Family,

***Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Marines:** CSM Jesse Clark (Fort Polk, LA), Lewis Gibson, Matthew Kaser (Air Force), Dan Lutz, Eli Maurer (Coast Guard), Josh Miller, Russell Nero (Air Force Reserves), Logan Russo (Army), Mitch Soles (Navy), John Stehulak, Regan Walton (Navy), Justin C. Zeedrich

PRAYER CHAIN If you wish to have someone put on the prayer chain, please contact the church office and/or Jennie McClellan or Barb Brown with your request. Your request will be handled with great care and will be passed along the chains and referred to the church office for email purposes.

Blessings to you all.

To all our friends at the Minerva Methodist Church.
Jerry and I wanted to thank each and every one of you for the beautiful greeting cards you have sent us. Just wanted you all to know how much they mean to us and they sure brighten our days.
God bless you all!! Jerry and Claudia Weber

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and heartfelt service. Sincerely The Dietrich Family

Thank you to all who sent me Valentine's Day cards. It really brightened up my days. My daughter was planning on coming home to spend Valentine's Day with me but she got Covid right before she was to come. Gary would be so happy that so many of our church family has kept in touch with me. Thank you all again. Kay Stoffer

Concert Benefits Young Organ Scholars

The Akron Chapter of the American Guild of Organists strives to encourage young musicians to develop their skill and love for the pipe organ, and to nurture their ability to capably lead God's people in worship. These bright young players express great enthusiasm for their studies. The Akron AGO offers scholarships through an audition process. This year we have more applicants than funds. Please help us build our scholarship fund so that we never have to turn away a qualified applicant. Our goal is to raise \$2,000.00 this year.

Join us for a live-streamed organ concert by our two 2019-2020 organ scholarship recipients - Daniel Colaner and Nik Stackpole - on Sunday, March 7 at 3 pm. While this event is free, we encourage you to make a donation toward our scholarship fund in honor of these fine young presenters. Donation details, along with a copy of the program, may be found at: <https://akronago.org/>. Thank you for your support!

Thank You

March Birthdays

- 1 Mikka Davis, Jordan Shirley, Parker Reiminschneider
- 2 Ret Eberts, Barb Haun
- 3 Shelly Ridzon, Nancy LeMoine, Missy Henry, Christian Clark
- 5 Aiden Ellsworth
- 6 Lindsay Bell, Mark Pearson
- 7 Arnold Ferguson
- 8 Regina Bell, Joseph Palmer
- 10 Jim Kienzle, Kendra Wriston
- 11 Isaac Haas, Leslie Pearson
- 12 Daniel Kienzle
- 13 Leisa Lindsay
- 14 Tommy Pearson, Zachary Waugh
- 15 Brody Hollar, Carol LeBeau, Trisha O'Brien
- 16 Diane Phillips, Justin Davis, William O'Brien, Willow Dourm
- 17 Laurie Cummings, Debbie Nightingale, Jack Gareau
- 18 Lindsay Hart, Rylan Smith, Cameron Cunningham, Louella Green
- 19 Ray Meadows, Megan Shirley
- 20 Carol Hanson
- 22 Gary Reymond
- 23 Kyle Danner
- 25 Kara Key, Claire Springer
- 26 Margie Rolfe
- 27 Kisha Lautzenheiser
- 28 Ethan Debo, Jennifer Waugh
- 29 Ian Gonzalez, Shaylynn Hertel, Ken Lewis
- 31 Sarah Russo, Susan Pallaye, Paul Kail, Ruth Hellyer

Joy is the noblest
human act.
Thomas Aquinas (1225 AD)



March Anniversaries

- March 8 Bob & Cyndy Lawson
March 10 Vernon & Lois Deininger
March 21 Jeff & Kasey Adelman

Those who are not looking for happiness are the most likely to find it, because those who are searching forget that the surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.
Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

In the January Newsletter the last line on the birthday calendar got hidden so those birthdays went unrecognized. So sorry for the omission. January 31 Birthdays Mary Staib, Jan Maurer, Scott Hall

Special Care List Let's continue to brighten someone's day! Please reach out to these folks with a card or note. Let's shower them with TLC! Thank you for caring for our Minerva UMC Family!

- Ruth Felger** St. Luke's Lutheran Community #115, 4301 Woodale SE, Minerva 44657
Dolly Lowry St. Luke's Lutheran Community #205, 4301 Woodale SE, Minerva 44657
Bob Colloredo Canton Christian Home, Rm 212, 2550 Cleveland Ave NW, Canton 44709
Ellen Mary Kump 402 S. Market St., Minerva 44657
Paul & Diane Binnig 9205 Malibu Rd, Minerva 44657
Steve & Shirley Warth 808 Grant Blvd, Minerva 44657
Steve Warth Green Meadows #12, 7770 Columbus Rd, Louisville 44641
Jerry & Claudia Weber 521 Murray Ave, Minerva 44657
Larry Dietrich 124 W. First St., Minerva 44657
John Milliken 809 Lynnwood Dr, Minerva 44657
Jeff & Judy Mitzel 1051 Montero Rd., Carrollton 44615
Linda Miller 9150 W. Southview, Minerva 44657
Kay Stoffer 16435 Meadowville SE, Minerva 44657
Ruby Gilliam 2024 Leisure Rd NW, Minerva 44657
Lynne Unkefer 731 Allen Ave, Minerva 44657
Donna Neidig 202 Murray Ave, Minerva 44657
Jim & Bev Hazen 908 Stafford St., Minerva 44657
Vernon & Lois Deininger 8096 Licking Rd. NW, Malvern 44644
Gary Price 504 W. Plain St., Minerva 44657
Virgil & Claire Springer 802 S. 15th St #1889, Sebring 44672
Barbara Messner 5650 Grace Woods Dr. #104, Willoughby 44094
Mary Miller 22739 US 30, Minerva 44657
Cheryl Gotschall 315 Wine St., Minerva 44657
Mary Ann Hawk 9163 Manor Rd NE, Minerva 44657
Gerald Fallot 3959 Robertsville SE, Minerva 44657
Dale & Eileen Cogan 309 Murray Ave., Minerva 44657

As well as this Special Care list, consider sending a greeting to others in the church family who could use a little bit of TLC.
Bring some Joy to others today!

There is much that is wrong with our Christian witness, but the thing that is most wrong is the absence of joy.
William Nelson 1951

Produce News

Our **Produce/Food Distribution** on February 11, 2021 was another wonderful morning of serving. We served 198 families with 579 family members. I'm sure it took a while for our volunteers to thaw out from the extra chilly temps on produce morning. It was very cold and the parking lot was a bit slippery. We had little spots of sunshine once in a while till we were done and then the sun came out. What a morning! This amazing group of volunteers works tirelessly through everything that comes their way!

Our food clients who came out in the weather got an amazing assortment of food! Thank you to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank for the wonderful delivery.

I say thank you for all the hard work that our volunteers put in to help feed the hungry in our area.

Please mark your calendar for Thurs, March 11th, 730am for our next Produce/Food Distribution.

Emergency Pantry: In January our Emergency Pantry total was 5 families with 21 family members. So far in February we have served 4 families with 12 family members.

I have checked with other area pantries and everyone's pantry numbers are down right now. Whether it is extra funds for food stamps or extra food available at the monthly distributions, there is no answer to the decrease in numbers. The hungry are still out there, but it is a blessing that they apparently are not needing as they did earlier in the pandemic. You always want to look like your pantry is the one everyone seeks out and the one that is making a huge impact. Then you put it back in perspective and look at the fact that if folks are not needing food as often is a blessing all the way around. We are making sure our shelves are stocked and ready for those calls when they come in, and they will come in. Thank you for the continuing support we are getting from you all!

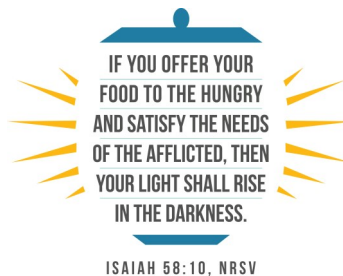
Blessings, Cheryl

We received the **2020 Network Partner Report** from the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. Our Direct Distribution (Produce/Food Distribution) received a total of 231,989 pounds of food with 71,951 pounds of that being produce included in that number. The value of this food was \$288,815 (we do not pay for this program) Value of grant support through the foodbank \$2,516, pounds of Government Support 142,675 with a value of \$148,917. This is an amazing amount of food and funds that went to pay for our Direct Distribution. Cost to us \$0. This is an amazing program.

Same report information for our Emergency Pantry: pounds of food purchased through the foodbank 2,170 with a cost of \$1,984 (we buy most of our pantry food from Aldi because it is closer).

Our CSFP Program (Our Senior Commodity Program) has given out 10,290lbs of food with a value of \$9,500 (this comes at no cost to us). **(Thank you to Don Gotschall for doing deliveries for this program.)**

Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.
Thomas Merton



Monthly Food Help is available at these locations:

Tues, Wed, Thurs each week 12-3pm

at the Salvation Army
(old train depot on Valley St.)

2nd Thursday 9a-12p

Free Produce Distribution at Minerva UMC
Emergency Pantry at Minerva UMC ... available by phone call or stop by, any day 330-868-4940

3rd Tuesday of the month

Food give away @ True North Church 5-630pm. Normally this would be at the Community Dinner, but due to current conditions it is located at the True North Church on Line St.

4th Friday

8am registration 9-11am distribution

Food Distribution at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

March is college pkg month.

Here is what is being requested for this years pkgs. Please note that everything is individually wrapped and is no larger than what is listed:

Individually wrapped

candy

chips

cookies

gum

pens

microwave popcorn

hot chocolate

post it notes

There are
Still Puzzles

Available

In The Narthex



SUMMER CAMP

What do you need this summer?

Leadership Development

Spiritual Growth

Swimming and Canoeing

Praise and Worship

Friendship and Laughter

Fun in Nature

Campfire and Prayer

Fun and Adventure

Exploring and relaxing

Challenge and Skills

There is something special for you at Camp.
Explore and adventure of Faith, Fun, and Friendship!

Camp Open House

- ⇒ **Camp Aldersgate** April 18th 2-5pm
- ⇒ **Camp Asbury** April 25 2-5pm
- ⇒ **Camp Wanake** April 10 2-6pm



- Take advantage of Earl Bird Discounts
- Register by May 1st and your camper will receive a Limited Edition Summer Camp T-shirt, that is not available in the camp store. And, you will also get \$20 off their summer camp fee.
- **The Core Values of Camp are...**
- **Transformation-at camp:** young people have the mental room to consider some of the most important issues of life and to discover the truth that God loves them and has an amazing plan for their lives.
- **Nature:** East Ohio Camps are set in some of the most beautiful spots in Ohio. Campers explore nature, participate in new adventures and test their limits in a healthy environment surrounded by the beauty of God's creation.
- **Community:** In a setting separate from their daily routine, with an opportunity to shed the expectations and pressures of others, campers are freed up to truly be themselves.
- **Friendships:** Good friends who exert positive peer pressure can make all the difference in a kid's life. Friendships with caring adults and other campers, forged through shared experience and the compressed time at camp, can last a lifetime and provide a connection that helps young people navigate the challenges of life.
- **Mentors:** at camp caring adults, counselors and mentors help campers think through decisions and experiences in a way that will prepare them for their future.

Camp Aldersgate



To live, we must have the courage to be happy. Henri Amiel 1821-81

Camp Asbury



The secret of living well and longer is, eat half, walk double, laugh triple, and love without measure. Tibetan proverb

Camp Wanake



The smile on my face doesn't mean my life is perfect. It means I appreciate what I have and what I have been blessed with. I choose to be happy. Charlie Brown in Peanuts Cartoon by Charles Schultz

2021 EASTER FLOWER ORDER

Orders must be received

NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, March 7th.

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

_____	Daffodil	\$9.00	_____
_____	Tulip-mixed	\$9.00	_____
_____	Lily	\$9.55	_____
_____	Fern Basket	\$19.00	_____

TOTAL _____

In Honor/Memory of (Please be sure to circle one)

Given By

Phone Number _____

MARCH



Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3 9a Card making group 7p Bells	4	5 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>  World Day of Prayer	6
7 1030a Worship & Sunday School	8	9	10 9a Card making group 7p Bells	11 9a Monthly Produce/Food Distribution	12	13 Move clocks ahead 1 hour
14 1030a Worship & Sunday School Daylight Savings Time Begins	15	16 6p Trustees 7p Administrative Council	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 9a Card making group 7p Bells 	18	19 10-11a CSFP Distribution	20
21 1030a Worship & Sunday School	22	23	24 9a Card making group 7p Bells	25	26	27
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 1030a Worship & Sunday School 	29	30	31 9a Card making group 7p Bells			

