

***UMCM CHURCH
MESSENGER***



**THERE ARE FAR, FAR BETTER
THINGS AHEAD THAN
ANY WE LEAVE BEHIND.**

C.S. LEWIS

 CrossCards.com

January 13, 2021

Welcome to the 2021 Women's Retreat Planning Report!

Dear Ladies of the Macedonia UMC,

I miss you! Our committee met this week and came to the conclusion that the optimistic dates in March 2021 will not be practical due to the Covid -19 situation. We regret this delay because we believe that we have a wonderful program planned and we are all looking forward to fellowship with you all.

Our alternate plan is a one day "advance" in the fall . There will be no "retreating" but rather refreshing, recreating and advancing our faith in God and our Savior. We anticipate holding the event at the church, catered (no one has to cook that day or stress about preparation ahead). The date has not been confirmed yet. We will hopefully have the date and speaker confirmed by the next newsletter.

The "advance" will also provide an opportunity to participate in a mission project that day. Contact me if you are interested in helping prepare the mission project. My home phone is working again, feel free to leave a voice message -330-467-6408

In regard to Covid 19, remember the drill: Wash your hands, wear your mask covering nose and chin, keep six feet away. Also, I ask you to please consider getting your vaccine at the earliest opportunity. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (330) 467-6408. There is a lot of misinformation out there and I do not want anyone to be afraid for the wrong reason.

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

Linda Bloom



OPEN M

A Ministry of Faith, Health and Hope

Macedonia UMC
CARES, SERVES, LOVES

Open M Still Needs Us - Here Are Ways You Can Help

The Open M food pantry tries to include a note or card with a hopeful message in every bag of food they give to people. In order to continue the notes during these turbulent times, they are asking volunteers to write a hope-filled Bible verse, or caring words on a blank card or stationery. Mail your completed notes to the food pantry at Open M, or drop them off at the church office and we'll mail them for you. I saw one card that simply had the words of a hymn written on it: "Be not afraid whate'er betide; God will take care of you." Simple, but comforting is good. Another suggestion might be, "He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!" Let's set the goal of our church completing 100 or 200 of these notecards. Think what words are a comfort to you and write them down. This is an activity that children can help with too!

Lunches are provided during the last two weeks of every month. Many churches can no longer participate, leaving many open dates. Our church has committed to providing lunch five times during the year, the first lunch on March 26. Open M posted on Facebook that if you, or your business wants to help, you can send a check for \$250 that will provide one day's lunch which will be prepared by the staff at Open M. You can mail your check to:

**Open M,
Attn: Julie Carneal,
941 Princeton St.,
Akron , Ohio 44311.**

-Carolyn Hansinger

ITS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN MOMS' TIME GROUP!

No matter what the world throws at us—*anxiety, fear, confusion, temptation*—we have a choice on how to respond.

We can either concede defeat, or put on God's armor and overcome.

We all know it's hard out there. Sometimes it feels like the world is ripping apart at the seams. And yet the Bible promises we were created to be overcomers, conquering the greatest obstacles in our lives.

The Moms' Time group is tackling the six-session study **Overcomer**, by Dr. David Jeremiah. We'll be focusing on overcoming the challenges listed above as well as lies and evil to be the best moms possible and to help our children be overcomers as well!



Moms' Time is for any mom who has children up to college-age. We meet Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the parsonage in Sagamore Hills and have all levels of Bible experience within the group. In addition to the study, we have monthly fellowship activities like our own spa nights, craft

nights, movie nights and hikes.

Throughout the pandemic we have worked hard to continue these things masked and distanced! **Contact Lynn Ham, lynnham23@gmail.com** for more information about the group or upcoming study!

Finance News from the desk of Jill Marlow

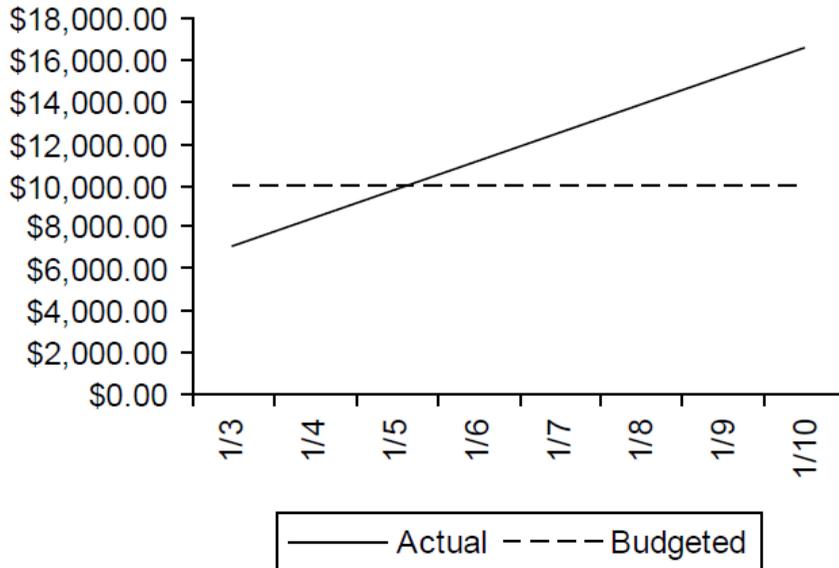
It's not too late to get your pledge cards in.

Year-end statements will be sent shortly, if not already.

Yearly Actual vs. Budgeted Amount to General Fund

<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
\$23,692.67	\$19,340.00

Weekly Actual vs. Budgeted Amount to General Fund



New Governing Structure at UMCM



Last year, the Church Council approved a new governing structure for our church with the purpose to make the administration more efficient and effective in its operations to allow more time to serve Christ. What this means is that we combined all the boards and committees into one board, called the Unified Church Board, or UCB for short. The Board consists of 13 members, rotating in a 3-year term and each representing one aspect of the business of the church.

This new Board will be the catalyst that keeps projects, programs and missions moving in our church. However, the important thing to remember is that these 13 people will not be doing all the work by themselves. They will oversee the work. This means that members of our congregation will be asked to work on a particular project or program in an “Ad Hoc Committee” (a temporary committee) to make sure the project is accomplished. Once it is, that particular Ad Hoc Committee will disband. Members of the congregation will be asked to serve based on their experience, passion, expertise, or interest in whatever is needed in the church. When a member of the UCB asks you for help, please say “yes” as it is important that we all are involved in the operation of our church.

New Governing Structure at UMCM (continued)

At the first meeting on the UCB, the following people agreed to serve and represent a specific area of the church:

Peggy Spraggins, Chair	SPRC
Al Fellner	Trustees
Carolyn Murrock	At Large Member for 2021
Doug Risley	Music / Worship
Paul Pendleton	Lay Leader
Susan Hohs	Congregation Care
Doug Wyer	Finance
Julie Bahr	Youth
Kent Shellko	At Large Member for 2022
Steve Huml	Missions
Linda Bloom	Rep. to Annual Conference
Rosanne Smith	UMW
Position – Open	At Large Member 2023

One of the goals of the UCB is to improve communication with the congregation. We hope to keep you informed as to our work on a regular basis. More details on this will follow next month. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the UCB listed above.

Peggy Spraggins, Chair
Unified Church Board of UMCM

