



# THE MESSENGER

*October 2024*



*[From Our Pastor: Prepare for Visitors]*

What makes a first-time visitor want to return? Seven points of contact. People are looking for smiling church people who make them feel truly at home.

The Bible tells us in Romans 15:7, “Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” With that in mind, here are seven ways we can prepare to welcome visitors.

**Be approachable.** Friendly greeters at the door set the tone for a visitor’s experience. A genuine smile, a warm handshake, eye contact, and asking their names helps people feel noticed, important, and appreciated. Anticipating questions (like where the bathrooms are!) will also put visitors at ease.

**Be hospitable.** Notice when visitors enter the sanctuary. Go and greet them and ask them their names. Make sure they have a bulletin, and then kindly offer to help them to find a seat, and sit with them (even if that means sitting in someone else’s pew – gasp! – they will move). This helps visitors to feel at peace and not anxious over where to sit. Introduce them to the other families sitting near them.

**Be proactive.** Present visitors with a welcome gift bag, and share about our church. Explain the service format and worship style, so our visitors feel informed rather than lost. Be ready to include what we believe. This gives visitors insight into our church’s life and faith.

**Be connectional.** Offer to introduce the visiting families to the pastor. Introduce them again by name. Kindly ask them for their contact information. This balances reverence with warmth, and helps visitors feel like they are a part of something meaningful.

**Be deep.** Offer visitors clear ways to get involved beyond Sunday service. Invite them to coffee and doughnuts. Show them where classes meet, and make sure they are aware of small groups, service projects, and social events going on at the church. This gives them a reason to return.

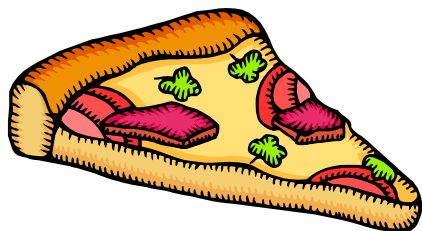
**Be thankful.** Follow up with visitors. This can be as simple as sending them a handwritten note, and email, or a phone call thanking them for attending. A small gesture of gratitude and a reminder that we are looking forward to seeing them again helps visitors feel valued beyond their initial visit.

**Be loving.** Take a plate of cookies or brownies (or any yummy dish) to their house during the week. Acts of kindness like this prove our love, and may be the very thing that helps someone truly feel at home – leading them to call our church their spiritual home.

By focusing on these seven points of contact, we will help visitors feel more than just welcome – we will create an environment where they feel they belong and want to return. Let’s be ready to make a lasting impression by sharing the love, joy, and hope of Christ with all who come through our doors!

In Christ,  
Pastor Charles

# OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS



## CALLING ALL PIZZA MAKERS!

The Outreach Committee needs your help on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> to assemble pizzas. Start time will be 9am and we're usually done by noon. Pizza lunch will be served after all the pizzas are made. If you haven't come before, it really is a fun time of fellowship. Pizza orders can be picked up from 12pm to 2pm on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>.



## **TRUNK OR TREAT**

Mohawk UMC will hold its first annual Trunk or Treat event on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. The Outreach Committee is asking for people to volunteer their trunks, donations of candy goodies, and people to volunteer to participate running the event.

## **SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING**

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, Mohawk UMC will collect a special mission offering for *Faith Comes By Hearing*. This is a Christian organization based out of Albuquerque, NM that provides God's audible Word in 2,184 languages. They freely provide Bible recordings to communities around the world. Their mission is to record and provide the Word of God in every language.



# MOHAWK UMC FALL PARTY



**THIS YEAR'S  
FALL PARTY  
WILL BE HOSTED  
BY THE PELC  
FAMILY IN THE  
BACKYARD OF  
THE PARSONAGE.  
BRING YOUR  
LAWN CHAIR AND  
A DISH TO SHARE.  
WE WILL ENJOY A  
GREAT EVENING  
OF FELLOWSHIP  
AND FUN!**

**FALL PARTY**  
Saturday, October 12, 5-8pm  
Mohawk UMC Parsonage  
Backyard  
3972 N 200 West, Greenfield IN

Food: Chili, Party Punch, Cookies,  
Smores, Hot Dogs, Drinks & More

Activities: Firepit, Movie, Photo Booth,  
Pumpkin Carving & Painting, Crafts,  
Corn Hole, Croquet Course, Foosball,  
& Trampoline

**BRING YOUR OWN  
LAWNCHAIR  
& A DISH TO SHARE**

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- 1<sup>st</sup> Carson Bearhope
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ashley Thompson
- 4<sup>th</sup> Rick Edwards
- 4<sup>th</sup> Brandon Steeno
- 5<sup>th</sup> Amy Lovins
- 6<sup>th</sup> Ann Friar
- 8<sup>th</sup> Jonathan Lovins
- 13<sup>th</sup> Marge Credille
- 15<sup>th</sup> Channing Blagburn
- 26<sup>th</sup> Jim Lovins

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES



- 12<sup>th</sup> Dwight & Terry Ramsey
- 14<sup>th</sup> Mike & Gail Stanley
- 23<sup>rd</sup> CJ & Channing Blagburn

***NOTE:*** If you notice any birthday or anniversary dates missing, please contact us in the office.  
[mohawkumc@gmail.com](mailto:mohawkumc@gmail.com)



# SPRC NEWS

## PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! The SPRC committee members are so very thankful for Pastor Charles's dedication to sharing God's Word, his ongoing care for us, and his guidance. Please join us in showing Pastor Charles how deeply his service to our church family is appreciated with a kind word, a note, small gift, etc.



## *TOGETHER in FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE*

*(Our stewardship journey theme)*

Prayerfully consider how your **giving enables** our church to invite people into a transforming life with Christ. With a gratitude attitude, we ask that you **return pledge cards by October 20**, in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office.

**YOUR STEWARDSHIP IS NOT DETERMINED BY HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAVE, BUT BY WHAT YOU DO WITH WHAT YOU HAVE.**

“So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?”  
(Luke 16:11).

Lord, help me to use my gifts faithfully



# FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

## A Message from Our Finance Team

Our Finance Team annually reviews our income and expenses to help promote our church budget and our ability to share Jesus' love through our faith, hope, and joy. As such, we would like everyone to know that currently:

- Most months we fall short of our goal. Due to falling short on income...
- We are unable to fund ministries through our church budget. Current and new ministries are funded by individual families or outside organizations.
- We are unable to pay our full Conference and District tithes, and we would like to be good stewards of our connectional story.
- We need everyone to help by giving just a little more. Consider a 1%, 3%, or 5% increase in giving. Together we can engage in Faith, Hope, and Love.

**Mohawk United Methodist Church Finances**

2024										2023
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Year to Date	Year to Date
<b>Income:</b>										
General Offering	9,833	12,525	17,254	10,116	10,259	18,998	11,209	8,880	99,074	101,422
Other	183	7,254	1,963	272	1,806	324	661	350	12,813	13,485
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>10,016</b>	<b>19,779</b>	<b>19,216</b>	<b>10,388</b>	<b>12,065</b>	<b>19,322</b>	<b>11,870</b>	<b>9,230</b>	<b>111,887</b>	<b>114,907</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>										
Tithe	-	-	4,555	-	-	-	-	-	4,555	7,032
Utilities	2,331	951	859	1,208	233	786	1,477	1,104	8,948	9,381
Other	1,081	2,729	2,923	3,319	10,602	4,764	6,386	732	32,535	26,689
Wages	9,336	9,357	9,383	14,315	9,357	8,218	8,024	8,125	76,115	79,319
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>12,747</b>	<b>13,037</b>	<b>17,720</b>	<b>18,842</b>	<b>20,192</b>	<b>13,769</b>	<b>15,886</b>	<b>9,961</b>	<b>122,153</b>	<b>122,421</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(2,730)</b>	<b>6,741</b>	<b>1,497</b>	<b>(8,454)</b>	<b>(8,127)</b>	<b>5,554</b>	<b>(4,017)</b>	<b>(731)</b>	<b>(10,266)</b>	<b>(7,514)</b>

**Budget Comparison**

General Offering Budget	16,485	16,485	16,485	16,485	16,485	16,485	16,485	16,485	131,880	112,011
Over (Short)	(6,652)	(3,960)	769	(6,369)	(6,226)	2,513	(5,276)	(7,605)	(32,806)	(10,590)

## **Using Your Gifts**

Through gifted individuals – that that means you and I – God provides for His Church all that is need to accomplish his work. Everything he has commanded us to do he has equipped us to carry out. Begin by acknowledging that God has given gifts to you. If you don't know what those gifts are, ask God to show you his plan and purpose for you. Seek to discover that purpose through involvement in service within our congregation. Remember that you are a living display of Christ's presence and a recipient of his forgiveness. Share that good news with all people.

### **Stewardship Corner**

Everything we have is a trust from God. It may seem that we own our homes or cars because our names are on the titles, but, as Christian stewards, we realize that we own nothing. We are only caretakers of what God gives us. God is the owner and provider, and He will determine how much we will have and how long we will have it. *“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”* (Psalm 24:1).

## **What Are Conference & District Tithes Used For?**

As United Methodists, we are connected by a common faith and mission, which we work through conferences that reflect our fellowship. One way we support each other is through conference and district tithes (previously called apportionments). This covenant reflects our good stewardship of the gifts and grace God gives to us.

Our Conference tithe (10% of our income) and our district tithe (1.5% of income) enable the Indiana Conference and Central District to minister the redemptive love of Jesus to a world in need. Our support helps provide space, equipment, supplies, and special staff for Annual Conference; church development; multiplication cultures; educational events; grants for new worship services; peace and justice ministries; daily administration; communications; leadership development; and connectional ministries like camps for youth and Children Matter Most.

We want to be good stewards not only of Mohawk United Methodist Church, but of our district and conference as well. Currently this year (2024) we are giving 4% of our income. We would like increase this amount. We need everyone to help. We need everyone to give a little more so that we can fully participate in the common faith and mission we share as United Methodists.