

On Saturday, Feb. 18, 170 adult members of Wintersville United Methodist Church participated in a crucial vote, the results of which will have major implications for the future life and ministry of our church. On that day an overwhelming majority of those voting chose to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church denomination (154 Yes, 16 No, 91% affirmative). I am grateful for this decision and believe it was essential for us to do so to remain faithful to the Lord and to His Word. However, as I shared during the introduction to our worship services the following Sunday morning, the word which kept coming to my mind throughout the day on Saturday was "bittersweet".

The voting results were bittersweet: bitter in that 16 members (and most likely some others) hoped for a different outcome and are now dealing with their disappointment; yet, sweet in that a super majority revealed a very strong consensus that we are not a "split" congregation, but one in which we ALL (the 154, 16, and all others) can move forward together with a sense of renewed vitality. Travelling regarding the vote was bittersweet: bitter in that the unexpected postponement of our original voting date caused inconvenience, added expenses, and delayed or altered vacations for several of our church members; yet, sweet in that several members travelled long distances, changed their vacations, and altered their plans just so that they could be present to vote. Their commitment and concern for the future of their church is such a sweet testimony. The overall situation was bittersweet: bitter in that nearly all of us regret that we have had to deal with these things at all, that many in our denominational leadership have not remained faithful to our established doctrine and biblical truth, and that we were "forced" into this current situation. Yet, sweet in that this has provided a wonderful opportunity for us to examine our beliefs, affirm Christ-centered biblical faith, and together help usher in a time of church renewal, growth, and continued and expanded ministry, mission and outreach. There has been an overall wonderful spirit of cooperation and camaraderie within our congregation for many years and that sweet spirit will continue unhampered as we follow a new path together.

**So . . . where do we go from here?** A basic principle of life is this: "We cannot change the past. We must move forward from where we are." It is my sincere hope and prayer that we positively and proactively look forward, move forward, and view this whole disaffiliation process as an opportunity for renewal, re-focusing, and revitalization of our church and our personal spiritual lives. We have so much potential to impact individuals and families, children and youth, our community and beyond with the life-transforming Good News of Jesus!

The apostle Paul proclaimed, *"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

Where do we go from here? Many more details will emerge over the next several months, but for now let us put the "bitter" behind us as we press FORWARD, positively and proactively, with our eyes fixed on our sweet, sweet Savior every step of the way!

Nehemiah Project (Disaffiliation Finances)

As it has been related several times in different settings over the past nine months, there is a substantial financial cost involved in disaffiliating from the UM denomination. The

amount that was approved in 2019 by the UM General Conference equals 24 months of apportionments and our share of the unfunded pension liability for East Ohio conference pastors. For our church that amount equals just over \$212,000, and the money is due by May 20, only three months away. The "bitter" aspect is that many believe it is unfair, not right, and wonder, "Can we afford to do this? How will we come up with that much money so soon?" These are all legitimate concerns. However, there is a "sweet" side (or at least semi-sweet side) to this as well. For over 200 years there has been a "Trust Clause" in Methodist denominations (and many others) which basically means the church does not really own its property, but holds it in "trust" for the denomination. So, even though we have paid for it, maintained it, and supported it for nearly 200 years, because of the Trust Clause, our church building, the Center for Hope, parsonage, cemetery, and all accounts actually are "owned" by the denomination (that is not sweet at all). BUT, after we pay the disaffiliation cost, we WILL OWN everything mentioned above (although

we of course will still owe the bank the remainder of our loan amount for the Center for Hope). The estimated value of everything listed above is at least 4 million dollars. So, a few "sweet" ways to consider this are as follows. One, if you were shopping and there was a 95% off sale on a product that you wanted and was useful to you, would you buy it? Of course! Our church "property" is valued at over 4 million dollars, purchasing it all for \$200,000 is just like a 95% off sale! Similarly, if you were leasing a car valued at \$40,000 and the lease came due, and you had a choice to either turn the car back in to the dealer or pay off the lease for \$2,000 and then OWN the car, what would you do? Pay off the lease and own the car - a \$40,000 value for only \$2,000! Not only financially, but for many other reasons as well, the question is not, "Can we afford to do this?", but more importantly, "Can we afford NOT to do this?"

A task group is in place and already working on all of these financial issues. They decided to call this process the Nehemiah Project alluding to the wonderful rebuilding program which took place through the power of the Lord under Nehemiah's faithful leadership in ancient Israel. It not only greatly benefitted God's people at that time, but also served as a wonderful testimony to all of the surrounding nations of God's power, protection and provision. God is with us as well! He has called us and will equip us as we faithfully follow His Word and submit ourselves to His lordship and service.

Within the next few weeks a letter will be sent out to our congregation sharing several different ways (fundraisers, donations, challenge fund, breakdown of proportional giving, etc) for ALL of our church family to be involved in this effort. All special giving in this way will be designated for the "Nehemiah Project". And please realize, this is about much more than raising \$212,000! It is about mission, ministry, outreach, vision, and faithfulness to the Lord, both now and for future generations!

*"The people worked with all their heart. . . . Join us there. Our God will fight for us! . . . the people did as they had promised. . . . So the wall was completed in fifty-two days. . . . they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God." Nehemiah 4:6,19; 5:13; 6:15-16*

As our congregation was asked during our Grow the Good/Center for Hope campaign in 2017, please be praying, "Lord, what do You want to do through me?"

Faithfully Moving Forward with You, Pastor Clint

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## **Worship Themes through Easter Sunday**

### **Lent 2023 Theme: "Resurrecting Our Core Christian Values"**

Sun., Feb. 26 ~ "Resurrecting Our Core Christian Values: Honor Christ,"

Colossians 3:1-17.

Sun., Mar. 5 ~ "Resurrecting Our Core Christian Values: Proclaim the Gospel & Relevant and Meaningful Worship," Ps. 96, 1 Cor. 11:23-26. Celebrating Holy Communion.

Sun., Mar. 12 ~ "Resurrecting Our Core Christian Values: Excellence & Improvement of Our Physical Facilities," Nehemiah 1-6, Col. 3:23-24. Launching the Nehemiah Project.

Sun., Mar. 19 ~ "Resurrecting Our Core Christian Values: Welcome and Accept All Persons & Nurture and Care for Our Church Family," Matt. 11:28-30, Rom. 12:4-16, 2 Cor. 5:18-20.

Sun., Mar. 26 ~ "Resurrecting Our Core Christian Values: Small Groups & Growth," Acts 2:42-47, Colossians 2:6-7, Hebrews 10:23-25.

Sun., Apr. 2 ~ PALM/PASSION SUNDAY. "Resurrecting Our Core Christian Values: To Equip Lay Persons & Service," Matt. 20:24-28, Eph. 4:1,7,11-16. Children's Bell Choir at both services. Distribution of Palm Crosses.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE, April 6, 7:00pm

"Resurrecting Our Core Christian Values: Prayer," Matt. 26:36-46, Eph. 6:10-20.

Sunday, April 9 - EASTER SUNDAY RESURRECTION CELEBRATION!

Theme: "Resurrecting Our Core Christian Values," 1 Cor. 15:1-4,57-58, 2 Cor. 5:15-17.

9:00am – Lighthouse Praise Easter Resurrection Worship Service.

10:00am – Sun. School for all ages/Refreshments/Fellowship. Easter Egg Hunt for Children

11:00am – Traditional Easter Resurrection Worship Service.



## Prayers for Lent



Our celebration of Lent began with our Ash Wednesday Communion Service. Please continue to pray that God will touch and impact lives in a powerful way during this holy season. Our Lenten theme for 2023 is, "Resurrecting Our Core Christian Values." Please also try to participate in our regular worship services, as well as all of the special services and spiritual growth opportunities during this season. Lent is a season of spiritual preparation, repentance, and renewed LIFE in the Lord, and your prayers and participation will truly make a difference for the up-building of God's kingdom.

### Church Clean Up/Work Day



On Saturday, March 4 beginning at 10am there will be a church clean-up/work day for anyone who would like to come and help. Your service in this way is greatly appreciated.

### Euchre Night



We will be having Euchre Night on Friday, March 17 at 6:00pm in the Center for Hope. Join us for an evening of Euchre and Fellowship. Please bring a snack (no dinner) and your own drinks. No cost! No prizes! Just fun!

### Donations for Easter Egg Hunt



It's that wonderful time of year again! We are in need of lots of candy and filled plastic eggs for our Easter egg hunt! Our many, many church children look forward to this every year and we are so thankful for all the donations that make this possible! Donations of candy, plastic eggs, or filled plastic eggs can be left in the back of the Center for Hope or in Jessica Ward's office. For more information contact Jessica at 931-217-7766.

### Youth Group News



Youth Group Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 - 6:00-7:30pm.

Mark your calendars for our Youth Group Annual Mission Week June 11-15. RSVP due by May 1.

Vacation Bible School – "God's Great Galaxy" – July 10-13!

### Men's Breakfast Group



The Men's Breakfast Group will be meeting at the church this month in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 4 at 9:00am. The Youth Group will be cooking and serving breakfast and all donations will support their mission. All men are welcome to attend.

### Biblical Pathways Sunday School Teacher



We are seeking someone to lead the Biblical Pathways class. Carol Mackey has stepped down and we need someone to fill her shoes. The class picks the book they would like to study. If you are interested, please contact Kitty Ferguson 740-317-8690 or Tiffany Manley at 740-317-0609. Thank you for considering this position.

## Every Wednesday ~ FAITHBUILDERS ~ 5:30-7:30pm

\*Please join us for our free, fellowship meals, and our Praise & Prayer, Kingdom Kids, Youth Group, and Adult Bible study.



Wednesday FaithBuilders Schedule:

5:30-6:15 ~ Free Fellowship Meal

6:15-6:30 ~ Praise & Prayer (all together)

6:30-7:30 ~ Kingdom Kids, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study



### 2023 - After School Program Update

We are excited to be a part of this great new ministry in our area. This program is providing a positive and enriching experience for the youth of Cross Creek Elementary in a safe and structured environment. It is taking place every Thursday from 3:30-5:30pm. We are currently serving over 20 children weekly and its continuing to grow each week!!!

**We need people to serve on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis.** This is a great and easy way to reach out to our community. We have the opportunity to follow our mission to "Serve in Love". If you are interested or have more questions please pray about it and reach out to Ryan Bradley or the church office. CONTINUE TO PRAY HOW GOD CAN USE OUR CHURCH THROUGH THIS GREAT MINISTRY!!!

### Notes of Thanks

Thank you for all the prayers during my surgeries. I am doing a lot better. We want to thank Pastor Clint and my good friend Sharon for all the texts. I want to thank Gary Bush for the uplifting phone calls. Everything was greatly appreciated.

Randy Jones

For all the members of Wintersville United Methodist Church, Thank you for all your prayers!! They really worked great on me. I am doing good on my recovery. According to the doctor - Exceptionally Good. My heart is full of appreciation for all your prayers.

Frank King

Dear Church Family, What a wonderful surprise to have a farewell. The flowers and the gift card was a step above. The cake and goodies were an extra surprise. Thank you so much. A special thanks to Tif and my partners in crime, Barb and Karlee. You guys are the Best. I will miss my kids, but will stop in to see you all.

Blessings and Love, Ms. Sue

Dear Pastor Clint, This is a belated thank you card for the generous and delicious meal your church provided to veterans on Veteran's Day 2022. Your parishioners made all who attended feel appreciated and special. The warmth, kindness and smiles made the Center glow with the Love of Christ. The Lord was evident in all the Loving hands that cared for us.

Gratefully, Charles Soto

## Wintersville Good Neighbors Thank You

Wintersville UM Church, Our sincere thanks for the use of your beautiful church for our Christmas Drive and for having our drop-off box outside for toys collected. Thank you for the wrapping paper, tape and all the volunteers who helped make the Christmas Drive possible! Your donation to our Good Neighbors was a special blessing! Thank you so much!  
God Bless, Jerry & Linda Boyd, Wintersville Good Neighbors

### Financial Support of WUMC Ministry & Mission

**THANK YOU for serving the Lord and others through faithful financial giving. Our giving supports the fulfillment of our Mission:** children and youth ministry, worship and Christian discipleship, outreach to our community and beyond, serving those within and beyond our church “walls”, looking forward to new and expanded ministry and mission through the Center of Hope, providing opportunities for worship and discipleship and fellowship in person and online, being a light in the darkness and providing encouragement, care, comfort, and hope.

**AS WE MOVE CONTINUE IN TO THE A NEW YEAR, we ask you to please prayerfully consider how you can generously support the good work that God is doing, and will be doing, through the Ministry and Mission of WUMC. Financial support is necessary to help fulfill that mission.**

Financial support can be given at the church, through the mail, and/or online through our website. (There is a small service charge for online giving). ALL giving is greatly appreciated and needed. **God has blessed us abundantly so that we might be a blessing to others. Thank you for carrying out God’s work in this way.**

### Financial Giving 2023

	<u>Needed Weekly</u>	<u>Yr to Date Total ( 8 Weeks)</u>
Unified Budget	7,500.00	\$59,122.15
Center for Hope	1,800.00	\$18,816.00
	(for loan payment only)	

**Please visit our Church’s Website for more information!**

[wintersvilleumc.com](http://wintersvilleumc.com)

COMMUNICATION    INFORMATION    INSPIRATION  
DONATIONS    CONNECTION    INVITATIONS

Also, please **visit**, “**share**”, and “**like**” our church **Facebook page (Wintersville United Methodist) as often as possible. Thank you!**

Online Bible Studies

See our Website: [wintersvilleumc.com](http://wintersvilleumc.com) for details. All are welcome to join!

# 2023 Easter Garden Order Form

Flowers Given in MEMORY of: \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers Given in HONOR of: \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Flower(s) placed in: \_\_\_\_\_ Sanctuary (or) \_\_\_\_\_ Center for Hope

FLOWERS	PRICE	QUANTITY
Azaleas	\$19.50	
Hydrangeas	\$19.50	
Hyacinths	\$10.00	
Lily	\$11.50	
Mums	\$10.25	
Tulip	\$10.00	

Our beautiful Easter Garden Flowers will once again grace our Sanctuary and Center for Hope on Easter Sunday. Please indicate if you want your Flower(s) placed in the Center for Hope or in the Sanctuary. Center for Hope Flowers can be taken with you following the 9:00am Easter Service and Sanctuary Flowers can be taken with you following the 11:00am service. Please place your order in the offering baskets located near the doors or put in the container in the Sanctuary or Center for Hope. Please make check payable to Wintersville UMC. **Orders are due by Wednesday, March 29.** No orders will be taken after Wednesday, March 29 due to the ordering deadline from the distributor. Thank you. No flowers will be delivered to nursing homes this year.

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## **Spaghetti Dinner – “A Meal that Heals”**



Please join us on Saturday, March 18 between 4-7pm for a delicious Spaghetti Dinner (featuring “Herk’s Secret Sauce”) and a great time of fellowship. This dinner is by donation and is called “A Meal that Heals” because all donations will be given to the Ohio Valley Health Center to help their healing mission of providing quality medical care to the uninsured and underinsured individuals of the Ohio Valley. See you on March 18!



**The Beacon  
March 2023**

### **Wintersville UM Church**

702 Main Street  
Wintersville, OH 43953

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Organization  
United States Postage Paid  
Steubenville, OH 43952  
PERMIT NUMBER 135



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### **Wintersville UM Church**

702 Main Street  
Wintersville, OH 43953  
740-264-1676  
[wumc@wintersvilleumc.com](mailto:wumc@wintersvilleumc.com)

### **Sunday Church Services**

Praise Service ~ 9:00am  
Sunday School ~ 10:00am  
Traditional Service ~ 11:00am

### ***Our Mission:***

***\*\*Connect with God\*\*   \*\*Grow in Faith\*\*   \*\*Serve in Love\*\****



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**Pastor ~ Rev. Dr. Clint Quillen Jr.**

**Secretary ~ Susan Matics**

**Dir. of Youth Ministries ~ Tiffany Manley**

**Dir. of Praise Worship & Discipleship ~ Ryan Bradley**

**Dir. of Children's Ministries ~ Jessica Ward**

**Organist ~ Carol Evans**

**Treasurer ~ Dana Sindeldecker**

**Custodians ~ Brad Jenkins, Brittany Striffler**

**Nursery/Preschool ~ Barbara Strachan, Karlee Warren**

**Sound Tech ~ Deacon Sindeldecker**