

Scott Trinity and Union UMCs



The First Word

April 20, 2020



Graduates to be recognized May 24

Send a photo, brief bio to Pastor Steve by

May 20 for recognition during online worship

Are you graduating from high school, trade school or college this spring? If so, we want to recognize you on **Sunday, May 24** during a special moment in our online worship service.

Please send a recent photo and a brief biography and we will use that information to recognize YOU and your

great accomplishments. High school grads, please note your plans after graduations. Trade or college grads, please let us know what you hope to do with your degree.

We realize graduating this year while not being able to have the full pomp and circumstance is difficult and we want to help celebrate as

best we can under the situation we are now in.

Please email all photos and bios to Pastor Steve at pwropen@yahoo.com no later than May 20th. Congratulations on your great accomplishments! We know you will all go far and we all will be praying for each of you.

Zoom worship continues each Sunday morning, Wednesday evening

Here is all the information. **NOTE** these links and numbers will remain the same each week!

Worship Live!

Time: 10 am Sunday

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/611622324>

Meeting ID: 611 622 324

+13126266799,,611622324# US (Chicago)

Hymn Sing and Prayer Meetin'

Time: 6:30 pm Wednesday

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/142152604>

Meeting ID: 142 152 604

+13126266799,,142152604# US (Chicago)



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

WANTED: Your email addresses!

Send them to Pastor Steve at pwropen@yahoo.com

In this time of separation, being connected is more important than ever. As a means of getting information out in an accurate, timely and connected manner, we would appreciate your help in updating our email listing. Don't fret and rush to get Internet and e-mail just yet. If you just do not have an e-mail address just call Pastor Steve at 419-601-5293 and update your mailing address so we can send you our newsletter by Postal Service. We are

missing a lot of contact information for a lot of people at both churches and Pastor Steve really wants to be able to connect with you during this time.

Please send all your contact information by email or by phone to Pastor Steve:

pwropen@yahoo.com

419-601-5293 (if no answer leave your information on voice mail)

Check out the STUMC Facebook pages or the website at

<http://scott-trinityumc.org/> for updates and important information.

UNION CHURCH: Great news from our Finance Committee

I just have to comment, on behalf of Union Church, how grateful I am to all of you, for your continued commitment to your church, during this most stressful and unusual time, considering especially not knowing what the future will bring. When I picked up the deposit slip from Dottie, for the last 7 weeks of church contributions, I almost wept. I knew you

would all be faithful, but I was still awed. I did a little calculation, and we are only down about 33% in usable church income, compared to the similar time period of a year ago. AND, you were, also, MOST generous to our outreach ministries, namely United Methodist Children's Home and Pantry Plus.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!!

--Jean Johns, treasurer

Both churches:

Please continue to send your offerings to Dottie R. (Union) and Bonnie F (Scott Trinity).

As always you make your pastor proud! And don't forget our special ministries we support as well.

--Pastor Steve

(see Page 4 for information about an online giving option)





A Note from Your Pastor

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. 2 Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. 3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, 4 take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. 5 Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

15 My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. 16 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

The “hand” or power of God is contrasted with “the hand of the enemy.” The bad news is that the power of the opposition to the psalmist (and to God’s will for life) is real and must be endured.

The good news is that God’s power is greater and will ultimately prevail. Such conviction and commitment—such entrusting of self, life, and future to God—empowers the psalmist to resist and endure, and even to invite others to love God, to have courage, and to have hope. We might even call it resurrection-power,

which makes Psalm 31 appropriate for the season of Easter. -J. Clinton McCann

We seem to be caught in the hand of a global crisis. As of this writing over 4.1 million people have been infected with COVID 19 worldwide and there have been over 280K deaths so far. The numbers are staggering and so is the fear and the anxiety over the situation as our local businesses begin the process of reopening. With those numbers, it can seem to us as if the “hand of the enemy” is prevailing.

Yet instead of embracing fear and despair, we can look to the Psalmist for words of comfort. Truly, and throughout this time, we are in the “hand” of God. Now to be clear, we should not go out and tempt God by being cavalier about the virus. It is up to us to work to stop its deadly spread. Yet, we can remain hopeful and optimistic even in this unprecedented time in our lives because we commit our spirit and our lives into the hand of God.

In those hands that crafted us from the mud and breathed into us the breath of life, we find our refuge, our rescue and in these times of despair--our Hope! And as Paul says to us, “hope does not disappoint us.” be at peace in the hand of God, my friends. Be at peace in God’s hand.



Online Giving To Our Local Churches Is Now Available

When an offering plate can't be passed, we need other ways to receive tithes and offerings. While mailed checks can work, on-line giving is even better. Many churches already provide ways to give online. Others are new to this way of giving and still rely mostly on passing an offering plate and mailed checks.

Recognizing the critical importance of providing for online donations, the Conference has created a portal on its website where contributions can be made to any West Ohio United Methodist Church. Click on the church donation link at westohioumc.org and follow the prompts. The Conference will accumulate contributions and forward them at the beginning of each month via ACH to churches that received them. If online giving is new to your church, this will be a good way to start your journey toward an online giving program of your own. The questions and answers below will help you take advantage of this giving option.

Q: When will my church receive online donations given in this way?

A: At the beginning of each month, the Conference will deposit prior month contributions to your bank account via ACH. The conference will not be writing and mailing checks for this program.

Q: How much does this program cost?

A: The program is free to local churches with the donated amounts being forwarded in full to the church. Donors will be asked if they wish to contribute \$2.50 on top of their church donation toward transaction fees incurred by the Conference. If they do, the

conference will retain the \$2.50 to offset Conference expenses. If they elect not to, your church will still receive the full amount of the donation with the Conference paying transaction costs.

Q: How will gift acknowledgement work?

A: Donors will immediately receive an email thanking them and acknowledging their gift. This email, which is the only communication from the conference donors will receive, includes all information needed to report the gift as a charitable contribution for IRS purposes.

Q: What notice will churches get when donations are made?

A: At the time of the contribution, an email will be automatically generated to the lead pastor of the church, the treasurer and the church financial secretary. The message will indicate the donor's name and amount and remind the church that the gift acknowledgement for IRS charitable giving purposes has been provided by the Conference.

Q: How should donations made this way be recorded on individual giving records?

A: You may show the gift as given "on behalf of" the donor. You may not report it as a charitable contribution for IRS purposes since in this case it is made to the Conference initially.

Q: Can a donor make a gift recurring?

A: Yes, recurring gifts can be made.

[Click Here to Donate to Your Local Church](#)

Or

<https://www.westohioumc.org/civcrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=99>



Online giving in 4 easy steps

Donation Amount *

Convenience Fee Add \$2.50 to cover the Conference's cost of processing.

Regular amount \$102.50

I want to contribute this amount every for installments

1. Enter your offering amount in the top box. You may help offset the cost to the Conference by adding \$2.50 to your offering but it is NOT required. You may also make your offering an automatic and recurring deduction for the frequency and duration of your choice.

Email Address *

First Name *

Last Name *

City (Primary) *

Church Name *

2. Make sure your contact information is entered correctly and be sure to choose the correct congregation to receive your gift in the bottom box. *Union folks, there are a LOT of Union UMCs in the Conference so look for the one with my email attached. That is ours!*

3. When the above information is all entered a window will appear to allow you to enter your credit or debit card information.

4. Once that is completed and your billing information is reviewed all you need to do to send your offerings online and **SECURELY** is to hit:

Confirm Contribution

Your offering will be deducted directly from your account and each month the Conference will directly deposit all online gifts into our respective bank accounts. The Conference **DOES NOT** keep any of this money. It **ALL** comes back to our local churches.

