



Heart Beat Newsletter

Zion United Methodist Church

In the heart of Whitehouse



March, 2021

Pastor Carol's Comments

As I write this, I am thinking back to worship on 2/28. Though the sky was a little cloudy, the temperature was approaching 60°. There was a wonderful sense of joyful camaraderie as everyone socialized afterwards. Patricia J. approached me and smilingly asked, "When did this (worshipping in the parking lot) become normal?" Patricia expressed her thoughts in the following note, so I'm turning this space over to her this month:

Worship in the Parking Lot:

Thoughts from Patricia J. on Feb. 28, 2021

When did this start feeling normal? Why does it feel right for a time such as this? As I sat in my car this morning, sang songs, prayed, and listened along with all the others in their cars, I couldn't help but feel like I belonged there. I was with my friends, but separate from them. I could smile and wave without a mask. I could share my prayer concerns with the Pastor as she went from car to car. I could sing out loud and not worry about spreading my germs. I could enjoy a sip of water (or coffee) and sneak a snack if I wanted to.

I'll admit I was not eager to worship this way. I longed to go "inside" and wear a mask as we spread out around the sanctuary. Now I see it different and I agree with the Pastor that our parking lot has become a holy place.

It's a place where we belong, together, yet apart. We can mask up and visit a bit after the service in a safe way. We can serve the community through our food pantry and prayer squares. We are still the Body of Christ. I thank the Lord for mornings such as this where I can safely worship with this community of believers!

Thank You from Pastor Carol

Last month's newsletter was so full of news, I didn't have room to include my thank you for your generous Christmas gift! But, my gratitude certainly hasn't lessened over time, either for that gift or the gift you give me every day by simply being the people you are. It's my great joy and privilege to serve alongside you every day of the year!

News Around Zion

Lenten Bible Study

Was Jesus' death a sacrifice, a ransom, or something else? Using the book, **Savior: What the Bible Says About the Cross** by Magrey deVega, we will continue to discuss what Jesus did for us on the cross. This study will continue through 3/25 during our regular Bible Study time slot: Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Purchasing the book is optional. The DVD teachings will be on Zoom.

Ham Loaf Dinner Report

Our ham loaf dinner was a huge success! We served over 100 dinners, using most of the prepared food. We made almost \$1,000! Thank you to all who helped by preparing the food, working in the kitchen, delivering the food to the cars, and cleaning up. You are appreciated!

Health Care Prayer Square Update

Hopefully, you saw the great article in "The Blade" on 3/21, featuring a beautiful photo and interview with Louella!

We've delivered 225 prayer squares to St Luke's so far—3/4 of the way to our initial goal of 300. After Pastor Carol drops them off at the hospital, they are handed out personally during rounds, or administrators distribute them among their teams. Jill Trosin, V.P. of Administration, says they are greatly appreciated. When asked if she would like for us to continue past the 300 mark, she enthusiastically said, "Yes!"

Instructions are simple:

- * Make your squares approx. 5" x 5".
- * Use yarn/fabric that can be machine washed and dried.
- * Use any color or pattern you like.
- * **Pray for the person who will receive your square.**
- * Drop off squares in the basket on Sun. morning or in the kitchen, or in the Food Pantry storage box.

A large bag full of yarn was donated for the project. If you'd like to "shop" for some new yarn, the bag is on the kitchen counter.



**News Around Zion (continued)**Travel and Spiritual Growth

We haven't been able to travel much at all for the past year, but the time will come when we can venture out again. Travel can expand our horizons in many ways, including our spiritual horizons. In an exclusive conversation open to all, renowned travel expert and author Rick Steves will join the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) at 9:00 p.m., on Tues., 3/28, for a live online discussion about "Travel as a Spiritual Act."



Steves will share how his travels and experiences over more than 40 years of exploring off-the-beaten-path destinations throughout Europe have led to a greater understanding of diverse people and cultures. He will talk about the spiritual value of traveling and how you don't need to go to the other side of the world to see how travel transforms us, breaking down barriers and creating a more compassionate, empathetic world. "For those of us who believe in conversion, Rick's compelling, sophisticated travel narratives evoke questions that prompt us to look inward and assess our own prejudices and biases," says host Rev. Dr. Tamara K Gieselman.

Anyone who loves to travel is encouraged to attend. Registration for the event is free and open to all. Sign up at <https://www.gbhem.org/event/ricksteves/>.

Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on 3/28, followed by Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and (on 4/4) Easter! We will hold our Maundy Thursday service in the parking lot on Thurs., 4/1, at 7 p.m. Bring your bread and juice for Communion. Our Good Friday observation will take a different turn this year. The sanctuary will offer some special "prayer stations," where you can spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer, accompanied by beautiful music recorded by Linda. It will be open throughout the day so that you can come when you can and stay as long as you like. Then, on 4/4, we'll celebrate Easter together in the parking lot. It's hard to believe that this will be the anniversary of our first parking lot service—a year that was full of adjustments and challenges but couldn't stop Zion from worshipping, learning, and serving together!

General Conference Postponed until 2022

General Conference has been rescheduled again and is now set for 8/29-9/6, 2022, in Minneapolis. Continuing travel restrictions, slow roll-out of vaccines in many countries, and lack of uniform access to technology made a virtual meeting of the global UMC impossible and necessitated the additional delay. A special one-day General Conference will be held on 5/8 to take care of ordinary business needed for the UMC to function until the regular Conference. No proposal to split the denomination will be addressed in May.

West Ohio Annual Conference Again Goes Virtual

Our own Annual Conference will be held online from 2-6 p.m. on Sunday, 6/6, and from 8:30-4:30 p.m. on Monday, 6/7.

Church Information

Pastor Carol Williams-Young
10926 Maumee St. P.O. Box 2457
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Worship at 10:25 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

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Find us on Facebook: whitehousezionumc

Website:
<http://www.zionumcwhitehouse.org>

Upcoming Events

Sundays, 10:25 a.m. - Parking Lot Service, 106.1 FM
Thursdays, 6 p.m. - Bible Study on Zoom.
Sunday, 3/14 - Daylight Saving Time begins
Tues., 3/16, 4-6 p.m. - Food Pantry
Sunday, 3/28 - Palm Sunday
Thurs., 4/1, 7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday service
Fri., 4/2 - Good Friday Prayer Stations
Sunday, 4/4 - Easter!