

THE  
VIEW  
from



**Hope Ridge**

**United Methodist Church**

Make & Mature Disciples of Jesus Christ

Volume 76

March/April 2016

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Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul  
and with all your mind and with all your strength.

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

## - LIVING THE JESUS CREED -

*FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BETH:*

I know this month that we began with the repetition of the "Jesus Creed." Saying it enough that we could memorize it, and allow it to become a part of our lives and sink into our being. This is the first part of letting it be your "rule of life."

It's kind of like... math. When I was a child, I remember filling in a multiplication table, and beginning to memorize that  $1 \times 1 = 1$ ,  $2 \times 2 = 4$ ,  $3 \times 3 = 9$ , and so forth. This was paired with hands on activities, but this was not the end goal. Memorizing the multiplication table for these simple equations, was a building block to more complex equations, and to higher levels of math.

Living the Jesus Creed is kind of like that for us. The end result is not to simply memorize it, but for it to move you to a deeper connection in your life of faith. The end goal is to move you to a deep life of loving God, so that in all of your actions, and doing, and serving, and being in this world that you look to your love of God, and live out of a place of fullness and wholeness. God has created you with a purpose, and God needs to you to love others and serve others as a means that they can experience God's grace. Where are you seeing God at work, and where you are going to help lead others to serve, and use their gifts to demonstrate their love of God as well?

Since, it is March- that means Saint Patrick's Day, look online and read the story of Saint Patrick and how he lived out the Jesus Creed.

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/what-st-patrick-can-teach-united-methodists>

*Peace,  
Pastor Beth*

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WELCOME: "Welcoming others into a relationship..."



### A Shout Out to Snow Birds:

We just wanted to say hello to all of our friends from Hope Ridge that went south or west for the cold weather. We certainly miss having you in worship and a part of the ministry during the winter months, but we would love to hear about what you are up to when you are away. Please feel free to email us ([hopeoffice@hoperidge.com](mailto:hopeoffice@hoperidge.com)) a picture or story of what you are doing, so we can stay in touch!

**Pastor's Sunday Messages will now be available to listen on our website!**  
Go to [HopeRidge.com](http://HopeRidge.com), and chose the date under the "Worship" dropdown.

### Coming soon: *A Disciple's Path*

**April 17- May 22, Sunday afternoons from 2:30-4:00pm**

This class will help extend beyond the new members classes, and help to answer the question, "What does it mean to be a United Methodist?" The class will "combine Wesleyan understanding of our growth in God's love and grace with the time-tested practices of spiritual discipline as expressed in the membership vows to uphold the church with our presence, prayers, gifts, service, and witness, participants will discover the difference it makes to live out their commitment to Christ through membership in the United Methodist Church. You will learn that being a disciple means loving God and loving others, and you will be equipped to do that by discovering your unique gifts and becoming engaged in ministry that also brings transformation in your own hearts and lives through the love and grace of Jesus Christ."

### SUMMER CAMP lets children experience God's presence in new ways!

Go online to [EOCUMC.com/camps/](http://EOCUMC.com/camps/) for the complete schedule of camps, or pick up a camp info packet at the brochure kiosk.

"Campership" scholarships are available through the district. See Pastor Beth to apply. She would love for many Hope Ridge & community area kids to attend our East Ohio Methodist camps this summer!



### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

at the brochure kiosk for the 2016 Perry Metcalf Memorial Scholarship. Eligible graduating high school seniors must be a member of Hope Ridge, and continuing on to higher education or vocational training. One scholarship will be awarded this year.

Completed applications must be returned to the church office by 3pm, April 11.

Monetary support is also appreciated at any time to sustain this scholarship opportunity into the future.

Please indicate on your check memo line of any donation "Perry Metcalf Scholarship."

**DID YOU KNOW? COLLEGE LOANS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** Go to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry website to apply by May 5:  
<http://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships>

WORSHIP: So that they can worship God,...

### *2016 Lenten Service Schedule*

- March 20: Palm Sunday Services — 8:30am Chapel Worship with Communion  
10:30am Worship in the WFLC and Ridge Kidz in the Youth Room
- March 24: 5:30pm Pot Luck dinner in the Café and 7pm Maundy Thursday Service  
in the WFLC with Communion. Nursery care provided.
- March 25: Good Friday 12-hour of Prayer. Prayer stations will be set-up  
in the Conference Room.  
7pm Good Friday Service in the WFLC. Nursery care provided.
- March 27, Easter Sunday: 2 services — 8:30am in Chapel with Communion and  
10:30am Family Worship in WFLC; no Ridge Kidz.
- April 3: Family Worship with Communion at 8:30am and 10:30am; no Ridge Kidz.

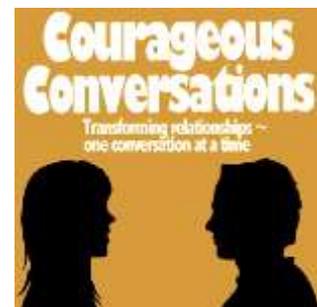
**MAUNDY THURSDAY POT LUCK:** Come to the Café beginning at **5:30pm on March 24** for a little fellowship and bring your favorite food to share. Maundy Thursday Service begins at 7pm in the WFLC. All are welcome.



**March 25: HOPE RIDGE is filling 15-minute slots for 12 hours of continuous prayer** from 7am to 7pm in the Conference Room. Prayers stations will guide you in thought and allow you to pray at your own pace. A children's prayer station will also be set up with learning activities for them. Please sign up at the table outside the Conference Room to come Friday, March 25 and be part of the continuous prayer or drop-in any time that day to visit the prayer

#### Coming in April...

The 4-week Sermon Series titled  
**"Courageous Conversations"**  
 Offering Wednesday night dinner and  
 deepening discussion of the Sunday topic.  
 Look for details coming soon!



NURTURE: Be Nurtured by the Holy Spirit and one another,...

**March/April UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS are available to purchase for \$2 each at the table in the Narthex.**

## **YOUTH GROUP—GRADES 6-12 WELCOME!**

*Meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 5-7pm in the Youth Room.*

*Activities coming up:*

- **Youth Work Trip scheduled June 19-25, 2016.**
- Hope Ridge has three youth and Pastor Beth going on a mission trip June 19-25, to the Jubilee Project in Sneedville, Tennessee to work on installing water systems. Over the next few months, our students will be selling "stocks" for their trip. A "stock" is \$10 each, and will include a postcard from the youth on the trip, as well as an invitation to an evening when we return to hear about the trip. You can purchase more one than one stock. See Ainsley Seyfried or Sabrina Bogert, today in the Connection Corner to purchase stocks. Checks can be made out to Hope Ridge with "2016 Youth Mission Trip" in memo line. For more information about the mission: <http://holston.org/ministries/missions/church-and-community-workers/jubilee-project/>
- **Youth Annual Conference (YAC) in Lakeside, OH is Friday June 10 (leave by 3:30pm)- Sunday June 12 (home by 4:30pm)** The cost would be around \$100/ youth for the weekend. The website with more details of the weekend can be found at: <http://www.eocumc.com/yac/index.html> Pastor Beth was the speaker at the YAC event last year, and it is a ton of fun and a good experience. However, we need to know how many youth will be going, so we can secure lodging for the weekend. If your child is interested in going to Youth Annual Conference, please email [pastorbeth@hoperidge.com](mailto:pastorbeth@hoperidge.com).



**SMALL GROUPS ARE STUDYING THE ALL-CHURCH LENTEN FOCUS OF THE JESUS CREED THROUGH EASTER.** After Easter, new folks can join, but most small groups will resume their previous curriculum through April:

**MONDAY MEN'S STUDY, 7pm** in the Library *If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get out of the Boat*, led by Jim Davies.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:15am** in the Conference Room and **TUESDAY WOMEN'S STUDY, 1pm** in the Conference Room and continue *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul* by Adam Hamilton. "To understand the man only second to Jesus in his impact and influence on the Christian faith, and his call to turn the world upside down."

**WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S STUDY, 2pm** in the Conference Room, led by Maggie Gruss, with the DVD study *Real Women, Real Faith*.

**DROP-IN FOR GENTLE YOGA** with a Christian perspective, taught by Melissa Hopper, **every Wednesday, 10-11am**, in the Youth Room. Donations accepted for Hope Ridge UMC.

**HOPE RIDGE BOOK CLUB, led by Sue Nahumck, the 4th Monday of each month, 7-8pm in the Hope Ridge UMC library.** Join for discussion for a monthly talk about the assigned book.

Coming discussion: Book Club for March 28th is *Inside the O'Briens* by Lisa Genova. It is the story of a family learning to live with Huntington's Disease. Genova's knowledge as a neuroscientist gives her a unique insight into the illness and her unique writing style draw the reader into effects it has on this family.

**TUES, APRIL 19 AT 7PM—UMW general meeting and special presentation of a portrayal of the Woman at the Well. Men and women welcome. Save the date!**

**CPR TRAINING-MONDAY, MAY 23, 12:30-3PM** in the MUSIC ROOM. Cost: \$25/PERSON  
Any from the church are welcome. Contact Sam Meunier at [preschool@hoperidge.com](mailto:preschool@hoperidge.com) to register.



LOOKING AHEAD:

*CAMP DISCOVERY*

the theme for our Hope Ridge 2016 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) scheduled for July 25-29, 2016, 9am-noon. A fun week for all!

SEND: **and be sent out to serve others in Christ's name."**

**A SUCCESS! PARENTS' NIGHT OUT** held at Hope Ridge the evening of February 12 provided the parents of 50 children a free evening out while their children were well-cared for, fed, and entertained. It was a great time for both the children and volunteers. Thanks to all who helped in this outreach!  
~ Stacey Hartman, Children's Ministry Coordinator

**The Easter Egg-stravaganza is March 13 from 3-5** We are excited for all children and parents who may enter our doors today! Pray that they will feel Jesus' love through the Easter story and activities.

**Donate to Hope Ridge Preschool  
through Dining Out!  
Two fun opportunities!**

Chick-Fil-A on Mentor Avenue (by Target)

Thursday, March 24th—ALL DAY

Drive through or Dine In

**Just mention "Hope Ridge Preschool" and 15% of the cost of your meal will be donated to the preschool!**

Moe's Southwest Grill on Mentor Avenue (By Bed Bath and Beyond)

Thursday, May 5th- Cinco de Mayo! 5:30-8:00pm  
\$10 per adult (includes Meal, Drink, and Queso or Guac)

\$5 per child (includes Kid's Meal, Drink, and Cookie)

Wristbands will be available at the door.

25% of your cost will be donated to the preschool!

PRAYER: A Worldwide Impact,  
anyone can do from home  
or away!

**Praying for God's Will, to be done God's Way, and in God's Time.**

Join the Prayer Community for the United Methodist Church and 2016 General Conference. Find out more at: <http://60daysofprayer.org>

This movement serves as a response to the most important request recorded in scripture, "Lord, teach us to pray." We invite you – delegates, bishops, clergy, laity, congregations, and small groups across the denomination – into spiritual preparation for General Conference.

REMEMBER to bring your baked goods for the UMW (United Methodist Women) **ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE FOR MISSIONS-** Tuesday, March 15, 6:30am-3pm! Thanks!



**FINAL COUNT: THE PROJECT HOPE GIFT CARD DONATIONS** brought in \$722 in cards for Subway, Little Caesar's Pizza and Giant Eagle, to buy emergency meals for the guests, when none are brought in. The cards were delivered to the staff there, who were so thankful that Hope Ridge thought of them for our February mission. Great job!

**THE HOPE CHEST TOWEL CHALLENGE**

We are neck-and-neck with Painesville UMC! Please help add to the Hope Ridge count this March and bring new or gently used bath towels to our little red wagon near the kitchen for our volunteers to take and distribute to Hope Chest in Painesville. Blankets, sheets and NEW washcloths are also appreciated.



Coming this summer!

A "Stop Hunger Now" Event at Hope Ridge!

Watch for details on how you can participate  
In making this meal-packing event a success!

## News Around the Church—Finance

### JANUARY 2016 Report of Our Financial Support of the Hope Ridge Community & Ministries

Summary: Our General Fund offering of \$36,096 in January was \$130 greater than our needs.  
Thank you for your generosity to help serve our community and the missions of the United Methodist Church.

<u>Monthly</u>		<u>2016 Year-To-Date</u>	
January Operating Expense Needs	\$32,988	YTD Operating Expense Needs	\$32,988
January Apportionment Needs	2,978	YTD Apportionment Needs	2,978
<b>Total Offering Needs</b>	<b>\$35,966</b>	<b>Total Offering Needs</b>	<b>\$35,966</b>
<b>Offerings Jan 1-31, 2016</b>		<b>YTD Offerings thru Jan 31</b>	
	\$36,096		\$36,096

### FEBRUARY 2016 Report of Our Financial Support of the Hope Ridge Community & Ministries

Summary: Our General Fund offering of \$29,520 in February was \$5,779 less than our needs.  
Overall for the year, our General Fund offering of \$65,616 is \$5,649 less than our operating needs.  
Even though our offering was below our needs, we were still able to make our full apportionment payment using our cash reserves.

<u>Monthly</u>		<u>2016 Year-To-Date</u>	
Feb Operating Expense Needs	\$32,321	YTD Operating Expense Needs	\$65,309
Feb Apportionment Needs	2,978	YTD Apportionment Needs	5,956
<b>Total Offering Needs</b>	<b>\$35,299</b>	<b>Total Offering Needs</b>	<b>\$71,265</b>
<b>Offerings Feb 1-29, 2016</b>		<b>YTD Offerings thru Feb 29</b>	
	\$29,520		\$65,616

## What are the different ways you support the ministries of Hope Ridge?



# Hope Ridge Celebrations

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jeff Carroll  
Don Sotka
- 3 Brittainey Carroll  
Bob DeGraff  
Becky Parker  
Luca Zampini
- 4 Carri Smonko
- 9 Claire Kovell  
Cole Kovell  
Chris Finan  
Mark Noviski  
Sue Patterson  
Lucas Sadler
- 11 Brent Moll
- 12 Sophie Hurn  
Benjamin LaLonde
- 14 Brittany Hampton
- 15 Kayleigh Bittinger
- 17 Betsy Newman
- 18 Charlie Hart
- 20 Traci Simmons
- 21 Judie Elgin  
Megan Kohler  
Vance Marino
- 22 Gail Lowe  
Jason Meunier
- 24 Jessie Duncan
- 25 Karen Bauer  
David Goodban
- 26 Gary Baptie  
Ed Root
- 27 Doug Kinsey
- 28 Ed Lowe
- 29 Kathryn Fellenstein  
**Maggie O'Reilly**  
Rick Pottenger
- 30 Landon Fellenstein  
Chris Trubiani
- 31 Jack Butler  
Carson Coad  
Annaliese Davis  
Mercedes Snell



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Karoline Ferencak  
Mary Moore
- 2 Jim Krebs
- 3 Dan King
- 4 Lori Toth
- 5 Rich Fellenstein  
Dennis Smonko
- 6 Allison Carroll  
Bonnie Lillibridge  
Mark Seyfried
- 8 Joy Olpp
- 9 Erin Allen  
Marge Davis
- 10 Rosie Dingeldein  
Lee Simmons
- 11 Lillian Sellers  
Diana Trubiani
- 13 Alina Meunier  
Vicky Smonko
- 14 Kenneth Murphy
- 16 Ken Eshler  
Ted Gdovichin
- 17 Audrey Fleck
- 19 Emma Eshler  
John Goertz
- 20 Joy Burnfield  
Linda Clayton
- 21 Ross Hopper
- 22 Baby Jack Cudzilo  
Chelsie Bittinger
- 22 Sadie Falvey  
Lyla Moore  
Mika Timura  
Blaine Wheelock

## April birthdays, continued...

- 25 Jordan Kattler
- 26 Sarah Avers  
Rachael Pribulsky
- 28 Carey Warner
- 30 Dave Boykin  
Carter Fellenstein  
Tyler Kattler



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Norm & Kay Wheelock
- 7 Jeff & Allison Carroll
- 22 Kim & Eva Thomas
- 26 Ted & Linda Daly
- 31 Joe Bova & Kathy  
Tripepi-Bova

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Stephen & Tricia Hart
- 10 Chuck & Jean Price
- 11 Mike & Courtney  
Urban
- 13 Jim & Lorrie Simer
- 18 Doug & Cindy Aubin
- 20 Larry & Judy Fritinger
- 27 Lew & Pat Meyer

**If your birthday or anniversary is not included, please let the church office know the dates. All friends of Hope Ridge are welcome to be listed.**

**HOPE RIDGE  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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Rev. Jon Wilterdink, Shared Pastor  
[pastorjon@hoperidge.com](mailto:pastorjon@hoperidge.com)

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday—Thursday: 9am–3pm

Friday: 9am–1pm



**Community Events (see Info Desk at Hope Ridge for more details):**

**Bob Evans Community Fundraiser**  
Dine on March 20, 15% of sales go to  
Lake County Meals on Wheels, if flyer presented.

**Tetelestai Musical- "It is finished."**  
Willoughby UMC, March 24 and 25, 8pm

**Hannah's Home**  
Beauty Conference for Women  
April 9, 9am-4pm  
Mentor Senior Center

**Lake County Community Network Auction and Wine Pull**  
At St. Gabriel's Church  
May 20, 5:30pm

**Joggin for the Noggin**  
5K Run/Walk in Madison, OH  
September 18, 2016  
See Kathryn Fellenstein to sponsor or run.

**A Message From Our DS (District Superintendent)**

"When I get honest," writes Brennan Manning, "I admit I am a bundle of paradoxes. I believe and I doubt, I hope and get discouraged, I love and I hate, I feel bad about feeling good, I feel guilty about not feeling guilty. I am trusting and suspicious. I am honest and I still play games. Aristotle said I am a rational animal; I say I am an angel with an incredible capacity for beer."

Rachel Held Evans offers this quote in her book, *Searching for Sunday*. I think it reveals the human condition ... the human quest ... the journey we are on. Some days are good and others not so good. Some days I am good and others not so good. Some days the church is good and others not so good. Yet we are those who dare to proclaim that God is good all the time!

God is good because God is with us – celebrated at Advent and Christmas and into Epiphany and beyond. But God is also for us. The Season of Lent reminds us that Jesus journeyed to the cross, and rose triumphant to bring forgiveness, freedom, life – abundant, full and eternal. We serve a mighty God who is for us, and with us! In fact, God is for and with all people.

I am about to meet the people of Liberia. I will travel to the Liberian Annual Conference to hear about the work of Christ in a land I am not familiar with at all. I am a bit nervous about the actual journey – many hours in a plane with layovers and a time change that I can't quite comprehend. I've never traveled out of the country except for the drive into Canada we took several years ago in order to marvel at Niagara Falls. I've been vaccinated, and received my passport and Visa, but I still wonder what in the world I'm doing! Yes, my world is about to expand.

Yet, I believe my world is also about to become smaller. I anticipate that the people I meet will, like me, understand Manning's paradoxes and also be on a quest to know a God who is with them and for them all the time. We don't need to look the same or see eye-to-eye on things or have the same backgrounds to be the Church; to be the people of God; to be brothers and sisters of Christ. We don't need to gather in a specific building or live on the same continent. We simply must seek to recognize and be the Kingdom of God among us.

You may not be on a journey to Africa, but I pray you will journey towards the cross and discover God – who is for you! And with you! May your discovery impact your life, and transform the world.

May His Kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven,

*Sondra*

**The Rev. Sondra Snode,  
Western Reserve District Superintendent of the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church**