

THE  
VIEW  
from



**Hope Ridge**  
**United Methodist Church**  
Make & Mature Disciples of Jesus Christ

Volume 74

November/December 2015

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## Pastor and Lay Leader Report 2015

We are ALIVE!

This past year, Hope Ridge has shown its ability to have resilience, steadiness, and vision for the future!



Last fall, we launched our capital campaign, *Opening New Opportunities*. We were completely undergirded in prayer and felt the power of God using each of us to unite and tackle our finances together. *Opening New Opportunities* will continue through 2017 as seventy-eight members committed a total of \$370,484. We have already felt the impact of this campaign, as we were able to pay a lump sum on our mortgage principal, and negotiate an interest rate reduction, saving us \$33,000/year in debt payments to support church programs.

We have continued to keep our costs down and our budget tight, but were able to add an additional part-time staff person. **This fall, we brought on Stacey Hartman as our Children's Ministry Coordinator.** As she and her husband Chris shared their testimony in worship on Oct. 18, it was inspiring to see how their lives have been impacted by Christ and the community at Hope Ridge.

**Through generous gifts that were earmarked for children's ministry, we were also able to add equipment that has enhanced our children's Sunday morning program, adding to our safe sanctuaries, as well as adding ease to recording Sunday school attendance.** Our Ridge Kidz experience on Sunday morning, has continued to include singing songs, participating in a large group and small group lesson, making an offering together toward mission, and praying together.

Our children have not been the only ones being nurtured in their faith. Adults have found growth and maturing through our **Monday night men's Bible study, Tuesday afternoon Women's Bible study, and an intergenerational Friday night small group.** During Lent last year, we also had **additional groups that met and were sent deeper in faith through the study "The God We Can Know."**

Nurturing and growing in our faith is not limited to the four walls of Hope Ridge. Our growth in shared ministry has expanded as we study, share and work together with our brothers and sisters at Mentor, North Mentor Centenary, and now Shoregate United Methodist Churches. Resources and energies are combined and new viewpoints are encountered and valued.

The United Methodist Women (UMW) is examining new avenues of meeting needs and becoming together as we continue to value traditions of our group at Hope Ridge. We have endeavored to reach out to the whole church, our men included, in evening programs of interest such as a program by a local quilter on patterns of the Underground Railroad and how they helped those moving toward freedom in Canada. During the summer, we hosted a series of social outings to points of interest such as Lakeview Cemetery which drew not only new women but also spouses who are not otherwise involved in church life and fellowship.

Administrative Council as the leadership has had discussions each month to plan future vision of ministry at the church. **The team agreed that Hope Ridge's core values are: Accepting, Loving, Integrity, Vision, and Engaged (A.L.I.V.E.).** All of this is continuing to move us toward congregational goals for 2016.

(Continued on page 2)

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

(Pastor & Lay Leader Report continued from page 1)

Here are some exciting moments from 2015:

- ◇ 12 baptisms of children and youth
- ◇ over 100 participants in small groups/Bible studies
- ◇ over 100 servants for mission and outreach
- ◇ creation of an advent devotional for 25 days with personal stories and reflections
- ◇ 1 week of day camp at Woodlawn- providing morning snacks, Bible stories, games, and lunch
- ◇ Easter Egg Hunt that was truly a team effort
- ◇ "Fun Run" Vacation Bible School that nurtured over 100 kids and 60 adult servants
- ◇ Women's Saturday Day Away, which renewed 20 women from 4 different congregations
- ◇ Readiness 360 survey completed by 45 in the congregation to inform and support strategic planning by Administrative Council
- ◇ Adopt-a-Senior has reached out to 5 seniors to help on a continual basis
- ◇ Upward Basketball nurtured 90 kids and their families, including helping them learn about many vital ministries of the area
- ◇ 14 families helped through walk-in benevolence for food and/or gas, or support through Lake County Community Network
- ◇ 12 scout meetings a month in our building
- ◇ 7 recovery and support groups meeting each week
- ◇ Host employer for the Riverside Achieving Vocational Educational (RAVE) program
- ◇ 3 new trees added to beautify our property: in honor of Alice Griffith, in memory of Perry Metcalf, and as a Girl Scout service project



Hope Ridge UMC is ALIVE, and it is a joy to be a part of the ministry here in Concord, Ohio!

~Rev. Beth Wilterdink, Pastor, and Sue Patterson, 2015 Lay Leader

P.S. On a personal note, I appreciated all of the love and support from the congregation at Hope Ridge UMC as I was ordained this year. ~ Pastor Beth

BLACK FRIDAY. CYBER MONDAY.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

**WE GIVE TOGETHER.**

Together we are witnessing the love that Jesus Christ has for a hurting world and are transforming lives and communities in His name.

Have you ever considered the breadth and depth of the impact our denomination's giving worldwide? Giving together ensure your gift blesses as many people as possible in sustainable and strategic ways. It's not just how much we give. It is also [how we give as The United Methodist Church](#). Every day, as part of the United Methodist Connection, you activate love, transform lives, and change the world through your faithful work. We give because...much has been given. We give because...it makes a difference. We give because...many together are greater than one alone.

On Dec. 1, you are invited to extend the spirit of giving thanks into the Advent season by participating in [UMC #Giving Tuesday](#).

UMC #GivingTuesday celebrates people joining around a common cause. With more than 800 United Methodist-related Advance projects and more than 300 missionaries, you have the opportunity to select a ministry that fits your mission focus. And every gift made online through [The Advance](#) on Dec. 1, 2015 will be **matched up to the first \$1 million received**.

UMC ministries connectional giving—all of us giving together— allows United Methodists to do together what we cannot do alone. Browse the projects to give on December 1. Click here to begin:

<http://www.umcmision.org/give-to-mission/search-for-projects/Advance-Project-Search>

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

**THE SERMON SERIES FOR NOVEMBER IS  
CALLED TO BE SAINTS: LOOKING AT THE LIVES OF EVERYDAY SAINTS.**

Centered around the verse from Romans 1:7

*To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:*

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

We will look how despite our flaws, each of us is a saint in the making.

**ADVENT SMALL GROUP STUDY: *SENT***



**LOOK FOR SMALL GROUPS TO BE FORMING** in mid-November for the Advent study titled “Sent” which will correlate with the Sunday sermon series. God sent Christ into the world as our Savior. That’s what Christmas is all about. In turn, Christ sends us into the world. But do we really understand how, where, and why we are sent? This five-week, church wide Advent study challenges us through story, art, and Bible study to discover what it means to be Christ’s hands, feet, head, and heart.

**“SENT” ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE NOW!** Order your copy today on the Connection Card or through the church office. Cost is \$7. Advent begins November 29.

**Coming Advent Events to Celebrate the Season!**

**SUN, DEC 13, 10:30AM**—RIDGE KIDZ CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DURING WORSHIP

**TUES, DEC 15 9AM AND WED, DEC 16 9AM AND 12:15 PM**—PRESCHOOL CHORAL PROGRAM

**THURS, DEC 24, 4:30PM**—FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE IN WFLC

**THURS, DEC 25, 8:30PM**—CANDLELIGHT SERVICE IN WFLC, FOLLOWING WITH COMMUNION IN THE CHAPEL.

**HOPE RIDGE IS SEEKING CANDIDATES TO INTERVIEW**

for the following three paid part-time positions:

10:30 Worship Tech Director, Choral Music Director, and 8:30 Worship Pianist.

Please pass the word to any friends or family who may be interested, and refer them to the details on our website at [HopeRidge.com](http://HopeRidge.com), go to Job Postings found on the side taskbar, or call the church office

Thanksgiving Prayer

Bountiful God, You know that giving thanks is often a joy and sometimes a challenge.

Thank You for the joys that fill my days –

laughing with friends, walking the dog, holding hands around the table, warmth from a fire and nourishment for my body.

**In the face of life’s inevitable challenges, remind me that You are present –**

relearning to swallow after a stroke, making ends meet when work is scarce, sorting through treatment options in the face of cancer or saying good-bye.

You know all my joys and challenges unspoken and You hold me tight in your warm embrace.

I give thanks for the gift of this life and the privilege of living it.

Amen.

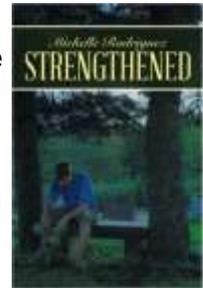
**NURTURE:** Be Nurtured by the Holy Spirit and one another,...

### YOUTH MISSION TRIP FOR SUMMER 2016

There will be the first information and planning meeting Sunday Nov 29 at 7pm at Painesville UMC (Youth Room). Rev. Dr. Jan Yandell who is the pastor at PUMC, has invited us to work together this year for a mission trip for next summer. The meetings will be the last Sunday of the month in Nov., and Jan. through June. If your youth is interested please RSVP, so Pastor Beth can let Pastor Jan know how many of us plan to attend.

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

**Monday, Nov 23 at 7pm—MEET THE AUTHOR NIGHT!** Read *Strengthened* by Michelle Rodriguez (Tony and Winni's daughter-in-law) and meet her to discuss her first book. Synopsis: *A tragedy drove Jeremy Norton to leave his familiar small town, now only through being vulnerable with God can Jeremy be gifted the strength to power through the most difficult journey of his life.* Available on Amazon.com in paperback, hard-back and Kindle.



**Monday, Dec 21 at 7pm** join in for a re-scheduled discussion of *Go Set A Watchman* by Harper Lee.

**GRIEFSHARE—Surviving the Holidays**—led by Rev. Bev Wrobel at Mentor United Methodist Church.

A video seminar and support group for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one will be **Monday, November 16, 2015, 6:30-9pm**. There is no cost to attend. Call 440-255-3496 x14 to RSVP.

**SUICIDE LOSS SURVIVORS PROGRAM**, Sat, Nov 21 9am-3pm at Beacon Health, 9220 Mentor Ave. Join with a community of suicide loss survivors to find comfort and gain understanding as you hear stories of healing and hope with speakers Loree Vick and Ann Bartlett. No charge, includes lunch, RSVP to Rae Grady, rgrady@lakeadamhs.org, or 350-2196.



**A NOTE FROM THE STAFF:** My name is Stacey Hartman. I have recently been entrusted as the new **Children's Worship Coordinator**. My husband, Chris and our two sons, Reece and Owen have been regular attendees to Hope Ridge for about 3 years. I became involved with the church from my boys attending Hope Ridge Preschool. The simple connections made by being greeted at the door, being offered a cookie in the cafe, being asked to consider joining a small group, participating in VBS, lending a hand with a Christmas pageant, and talking with Sunday school teachers, has forged a beautiful path for us to a growing relationship with Jesus. We want Ridge Kidz to be a part of your child's journey as well.

*What is Ridge Kidz?* It is a worship experience designed for children ages 3 – grade 5, held at the same time as the 10:30 Worship in the WFLC. Children sing upbeat and fun praise songs, hear scripture, learn in large and small group settings, learn to pray, make offerings and learn how they can also serve the Lord. First, we want to captivate them with exciting music so that they are interested. Second, we want them to experience a true encounter with God as they worship. We want to give them more than an energy boost. Kids will clap, shout, and sing along but without some instruction they may not really understand what worship is all about. We will learn prayers, scriptures, stories, mission projects that will complete their Sunday worship experience. Come, and let your child grow in their faith with Ridge Kidz!



### A BIG ELECTION DAY THANK YOU from the United Methodist Women (UMW):

Thanks to all the women who helped...  
 ...make Buckeye Balls for the Election Day Bake Sale.  
 ...bake for our Election Day Bake Sale.  
 ...staff the table and greeted those who came to vote.  
 ...made coffee for the voters and workers.  
 ...shared free candy with the voters.  
 ...who made prayer squares that were shared with over 20 voters on Election Day.  
 ...and who touched the hearts of those in our community while helping raise \$277 toward the UMW missions.  
 Great work!

~Sue Patterson, UMW President

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

**"OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD" SHOEBOX COLLECTION—THRU NOV 15.** The Ridge Kidz families invite you to be a part of making and collecting shoeboxes full of toys and school supplies to be distributed around the world by [SamaritansPurse.org](http://SamaritansPurse.org). Go to their website for ideas on what goes in a shoebox, or pick up a Shoebox info flyer on the Ridge Kidz bulletin board or at the Info Desk. Cash donations are also welcome to help with shipping costs.



**PROJECT HOPE MEALS** can use your help with one part of the meal the 2nd Friday of each month. Sign up for a date that works for you in the Red Book on the Info Desk.



HOPE RIDGE UMC HAS BEEN INVITED to assist Catalyst Ministries with the Woodlawn Homes Thanksgiving Dinner in Painesville on Saturday, Nov 21 at the Woodlawn Homes Community Center, 200 Sanders Ave. They would love to have you and your family and friends come and participate in this rewarding outreach. There are five basic areas in which you can participate:

Setup (8 people) 10:15 - 11:45am  
 Serving Team A (10 people) 11:30 - 12:50pm  
 Serving Team B (10 people) 12:30 - 2:00pm  
 Cleanup (8 people) 2:15 - 3:30pm  
 Food Donation and Preparation—

Deliver to Woodlawn Homes Community Center at 11:20am.

Meal list and sign-up in the Red Book at the Info Desk or call the church office.

HOPE RIDGE AND MENTOR UMC HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE— NOW THRU DEC 13!

Bring assorted canned goods and other non-perishables to the designated box in the Hope Ridge Narthex. If you or your family would like to assist sorting or distributing food for Thanksgiving or Christmas, make note to attend one of the following opportunities at Mentor UMC:

Food Sorting—Sunday, Nov 22, noon-2pm  
 Food Distribution—Monday, Nov 23, 9-11:30am  
 Food Sorting—Sunday, Dec 13, noon-2pm  
 Food Distribution—Monday, Dec 14, 9-11:30am



THE HOPE RIDGE TRUSTEES have several items that need help to be done around the church.

Please contact Fred Dingeldein ([fdingeldein@adelphia.net](mailto:fdingeldein@adelphia.net)) for details, or contact the church office, 440-352-2141, if you are able to assist. These can be done at your availability.

- ◇ Fall cleanup of gardens
- ◇ Rotate stored chairs in WFLC
- ◇ Paint chapel overhangs (outside)
- ◇ Child proof latches in Nursery
- ◇ Preschool room 6 install catches or new hinges on cabinets
- ◇ Replace burned out lights throughout the church
- ◇ Clean ovens
- ◇ Clean refrigerator
- ◇ Clean attic above preschool
- ◇ Clean attic above Trustee room
- ◇ Repair hose cart tire
- ◇ Repair window screen in Preschool room 8

Any help is greatly appreciated; materials and instruction will be furnished. Thank you!

## News Around the Church—Finance

### AUGUST 2015 Report of Our Financial Support of the Hope Ridge Community & Ministries

Summary: Our General Fund offering of \$33,902 in August was \$1,554 greater than our needs.

Overall for the year, our offering of \$262,701 is now only \$535 less than our operating needs.

Thanks for your generosity to help serve our community and the missions of the United Methodist Church.

<u>Monthly</u>		<u>2015 Year-To-Date</u>	
<b>Aug Operating Expense Needs</b>	\$29,417	<b>YTD Operating Expense Needs</b>	\$239,784
<b>Aug Apportionment Needs</b>	<u>2,932</u>	<b>YTD Apportionment Needs</b>	<u>23,452</u>
<b>Total Offering Needs</b>	<u>\$32,348</u>	<b>Total Offering Needs</b>	<u>\$263,236</u>
<b>Offerings Aug 1-31, 2015</b>	\$33,902	<b>YTD Offerings thru Aug 31</b>	\$262,701

### SEPTEMBER 2015 Report of Our Financial Support of the Hope Ridge Community & Ministries

Summary: Our General Fund offering of \$31,576 in September was \$1,479 less than our needs.

Overall for the year, our offering of \$294,268 is \$2,630 less than our operating needs.

<u>Monthly</u>		<u>2015 Year-To-Date</u>	
<b>Sept Operating Expense Needs</b>	\$30,114	<b>YTD Operating Expense Needs</b>	\$269,898
<b>Sept Apportionment Needs</b>	<u>2,932</u>	<b>YTD Apportionment Needs</b>	<u>26,384</u>
<b>Total Offering Needs</b>	<u>\$33,046</u>	<b>Total Offering Needs</b>	<u>\$296,282</u>
<b>Offerings Sept 1-30, 2015</b>	\$31,588	<b>YTD Offerings thru Sept 30</b>	\$294,289

**OCTOBER 2015** offering totals were not yet available at the time of this printing.



The Hope Ridge Finance Team would like to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for you and provides much-needed consistency for our church finances.

There are several options to electronic giving: Direct debit giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or **savings account to the church's bank account on a pre-determined schedule**. Credit and debit card giving allows you to make offerings on a pre-determined schedule using your debit or credit card. Online giving allows you to go to [www.HopeRidge.com](http://www.HopeRidge.com) at any time to set up a automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office.

# Hope Ridge Celebrations

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Joyce Schutz
  - 3 Betsy Cozzarin  
Madeleine Hart  
Pat Winter
  - 6 Declan Murphy
  - 7 Elizabeth Ludwig
  - 9 Fran McConnell
  - 10 Cathy May-Krebs
  - 11 Jack Cudzillo  
Dianne Ruppe
  - 13 Melissa Pottenger  
Jean Price  
Brian Simmons
  - 15 Dillon Shipman
  - 16 Brenda Soulsby
  - 17 Diane Hanford  
Carol Snyderwine
  - 18 Brian Eshler  
Jim Moll
  - 21 Grant Egensperger  
Gordon Hanford
  - 22 Kelli Baker  
Becky Warner  
Mike Warner
  - 23 Lew Meyer  
Madeline Moody
  - 24 Kim Gdovichin  
25 John Toth
- ...continued



### November Birthdays— continued

- 26 Amelia Baker
- 28 Dennis Meek
- 29 Hope Clark  
Henry Kaplan
- 30 Skyla Boykin  
Fran Brownell  
Paige Kattler  
Jordan Timura  
Bob Zahn



### November Wedding Anniversaries

- 7 Dave & Skyla Boykin
- 10 Darren & Rachael Timura
- 18 Mike & Becky Warner
- 20 Bruce & Marcia Clark
- 22 Bob & Pattie Rader
- 24 Bob & Betty Bowerman
- 28 Ed & Kathy Root
- 29 John & Joan Schick
- 30 Jordan & Paige Kattler

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Keith Nelson
- 2 Alivia Davis
- 5 Emily Egensperger
- 8 Erin Higgins
- 9 Bob Bowerman  
Tom Dingeldein
- 12 Tony Brunetti  
Beth Chamberlain  
Bob Fellenstein  
Nancy Rattray
- 13 Jackie Ohmura  
Karen Sadler
- 15 Joseph Snyderwine
- 16 Beth Wilterdink
- 17 Julie Case
- 20 Jacqueline Calvert-Mele
- 23 Amy Davies
- 24 Ron Balogh
- 26 Kathy Root
- 27 Carol Benroth  
Leighann Carroll
- 28 Rev. Margaret Streiff
- 30 Janice Ohmura
- 31 Marilyn Stankey

## December Wedding Anniversaries

- 12 Michael & Janine Zampini
- 16 Josh & Jessie Duncan  
Gary & Fran McConnell
- 17 Gordon & Wynne Bogert
- 24 Joe & Linda Kallay

If we have missed your special day, let us know at [hopeoffice@hoperidge.com](mailto:hopeoffice@hoperidge.com).



### The Painesville United Methodist Church Concert Series presents The Burning River Brass, Tuesday, December 15 @ 7pm

No charge for admission.

71 N. Park Place, Painesville

Burning River Brass is consistently applauded for the infectious joy with which it performs. In concert, the ensemble presents a variety of music designed to satisfy the tastes of every audience. Come celebrate the Christmas season!

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*HOPE RIDGE  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH*

*9870 Johnnycake Ridge Rd.  
Mentor, OH 44060*

*Phone: 440-352-2141*

*Fax: 440-639-2405*

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*Rev. Beth Wilterdink, Lead Pastor  
pastorbeth@hoperidge.com*

*Rev. Jon Wilterdink, Shared Pastor  
pastorjon@hoperidge.com*

*OFFICE HOURS*

*Monday—Thursday: 9am–3pm*

*Friday: 9am–1pm*




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**Conference Thoughts from Our District Superintendent... Rev. Sondra Snode**

**P**ope Francis' recent visit to America is certainly historic. This Christian leader had the audience of our president, Congress, United Nations leaders, and every news agency. Thousands of people attended mass and vesper services he led. Even more lined the streets to catch a glimpse of the Holy Father. One newscaster interviewed school children waiting to see Pope Francis. "Why do you like him so much?" Their responses caused me pause. I hope they do you, too.



He is caring.

And kind.

**He isn't like, "Hey, look at me – I'm Pope Francis!"**

He cares for the poor.

He never stops praying for us.

In a culture that often views religious leaders with suspect rather than respect; in churches with diverse views and often self-preserving agendas; in a world full of brokenness and violence and injustice I find it encouraging to hear of a religious leader admired and revered and listened to for however short a moment.

If I roamed your streets, how would the children describe you? As pastors, as laity, as the Church today – are we perceived as caring and kind; humble and prayerful; compassionate and merciful? Would others recognize Jesus in you?

Jesus empowered us to be His Church. To go into the world, not just sit in the pew. To make disciples, not just take from others. To remember Christ is with us, and bear fruit that reveals his presence is guiding us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. And, to do so until the end of the age or in other words, as long **as it takes until Jesus' return.**

So let us not grow tired of following Christ. Jesus brings life, transformed and new and abundant and full. Let us not grow tired of offering Christ. Your life, your actions, your witness may make all the difference to the child standing on the side-lines.

Seeking Jesus,

*Sondra Snode*

District Superintendent of the Western Reserve District, [Sondra@wrdistrict.org](mailto:Sondra@wrdistrict.org)