

From the Desk of Pastor Katie

As I sit to write this letter for the April edition of *The Chimes* I am aware that we are only 2 weeks into Lent, yet by the time this reaches you we will be more than halfway through and Easter will be upon us. Before I say anything else I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for you, the people of Newtown United Methodist Church, as you have been (at least from my vantage point) *more than* receptive of the special additions to the order of worship for the season. Namely, the addition of a sung Psalm between the first scripture lesson and the Gospel, plus an extended period of silent meditation following the Prayer of Confession.

I must confess that the addition of the silent prayer time might have been just a smidge self-indulgent. Recently I have been feeling as though there is too much noise in my life. The noise changes from day to day, from work to family to the political landscape, social media and the racing thoughts that I struggle to quiet. The Holy Spirit then laid it on my heart that I was probably not alone in these feelings and thus the idea came that the season of Lent would be the perfect 6-week timeframe to intentionally build some sacred silence into our worship flow. I know that those who regularly practice silent prayer find it life-giving, yet it is more likely the case that few (if anyone!) come to this practice without... well... practice. Thus I admit that the sudden introduction of this time of sacred silence may have and may continue to feel jarring to many.

To help us understand the value of silence in our prayer lives here is what the ecumenical community of Taizé in France says on the topic:

Three times a day, everything on the hill of Taizé stops: the work, the Bible studies, the discussions. The bells call everyone to church for prayer. Hundreds or even thousands of mainly young people from all over the world pray and sing together with the brothers of the community. Scripture is read in several languages. In the middle of each common prayer, there is a long period of silence, a unique moment for meeting with God.

At times prayer becomes silent. Peaceful communion with God can do without words. "I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother." Like the satisfied child who has stopped crying and is in its mother's arms, so can "my soul be with me" in the presence of God. Prayer then needs no words, maybe not even thoughts.

How is it possible to reach inner silence? Sometimes we are apparently silent, and yet we have great discussions within, struggling with imaginary partners or with ourselves. Calming our souls requires a kind of simplicity: "I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me." Silence means recognizing that my worries can't do much. Silence means leaving to God what is beyond my reach and capacity. A moment of silence, even very short, is like a holy stop, a sabbatical rest, a truce of worries.

– The Value of Silence, The Taizé Community

I pray that this time of silence each Sunday has proven to be exactly that for you; "a holy stop, a sabbatical rest, a truce of worries." And above all, I look forward to celebrating my first Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday with you this month. We are indeed an Easter People, followers of the Risen Christ and our silence and repentance will soon give way to celebration, exclamation and abundant joy.

+Pastor Katie

UC Wesley Dinner – April 4th

The Wesley Foundation in Cincinnati is the United Methodist Campus Ministry at the University of Cincinnati and throughout the Greater Cincinnati Area.

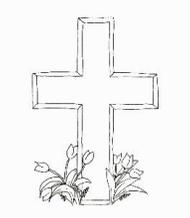
It is their mission to offer God's radical love to every student in the greater Cincinnati, Ohio area and to form a community of disciples grounded in Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The young adult group had an excellent time taking food down to Wesley House UC in March so we're going to go again in April! Join Pastor Katie on **Tuesday April 4 at 3:00 p.m.** at Newtown UMC to help cook the meal, at 4:30 to help transport food down to Clifton or at Wesley House at 5:15 to share a meal with the university students. Just make sure to tell Pastor Katie you plan to go so she knows how many to expect!

Feed the Hungry

As a congregation we once again are having our annual special mission outreach during Lent to support Inter-Parish Ministries with filling their Choice Food Pantry shelves. Our goal for 2017 is \$15,000. This may seem like a large goal, but in reality it is a small part of what IPM provides to families each year.

We anticipate a percentage match from Kroger on the dollars we collect. Make checks out to the church and mark them and/or your envelope for "Feed the Hungry".

Thank you to all for your support of this important mission outreach.



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday Sunrise, April 16 at 6:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m.

2017 Member Directory

Our 2017 Member Directory is published. Please pick up one from the ushers on Sunday morning.



Easter Egg Hunt

It's that time of year again! The Great Easter Egg Hunt of 2017 will commence on **Easter Sunday, April 16th** immediately following the 10:30 service. In order for us to have a great egg hunt for the kids we need your help! We will be accepting donations of wrapped candy or small toys that will fit in an Easter egg and small prizes for Easter baskets until Sunday April 9th. Please place any donations in the Easter Basket downstairs. If you would prefer you may make cash or check donation (write "Easter Egg Hunt" in the memo line) instead. Questions? Call, text or email Tiffany Sexton:
Cell: (513)340-1018 Email: Dolphyn830@aol.com

Thank you and God Bless!

Ad Council Mtg – April 17

The Ad Council will be meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday April 17 and will meet for an extended period of time from 7-9 p.m. as the kickoff to our Visioning & Strategic Planning sessions. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Ad Council/Strategic Planning Retreat

Due to hectic schedules and the "tyranny of the calendar" the Ad Council is going to try something new! Instead of meeting for only one full day on a weekend to complete our Visioning and Strategic Planning work we will meet in three different segments. We hope that this format will allow for the greatest amount of input. Ad Council members are strongly encouraged to attend all three sessions if possible. If that is not possible that's OK too – come for as much of this important work as you can. All members and friends of Newtown UMC are welcome to these sessions; you do not need to be a member of the Ad Council to participate just sign up downstairs so we know to expect you. Our 3 sessions will take place:

Monday April 17th – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Sunday April 30th – 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday May 6th – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Acknowledgements

The congregation of the Newtown United Methodist Church would like to thank the families below for sponsoring the **CHIMES** and the Sunday Bulletins. Information about becoming a sponsor can be found on the church message board section of this issue of the **CHIMES**.

CHIMES

JANUARY	MARILYN & ROBIN BEATTY
FEBRUARY	DOROTHY LARSSON
MARCH	TOM ZIMMERMAN
APRIL	JON & BARB FRANCE
MAY	CATHY MARTHIS
JUNE	CHUCK & NANCY LINGO
JULY	RICHARD SMITH
AUGUST	RAY AND CAROLE GIBSON
SEPTEMBER	
OCTOBER	
NOVEMBER	
DECEMBER	

SUNDAY BULLETINS

JANUARY	MARILYN & ROBIN BEATTY
FEBRUARY	DORI PORTER
MARCH	DOROTHY LARSSON
APRIL	TOM ZIMMERMAN
MAY	JON & BARB FRANCE
JUNE	CATHY MARTHIS
JULY	CHUCK & NANCY LINGO
AUGUST	RICHARD SMITH
SEPTEMBER	RAY AND CAROLE GIBSON
OCTOBER	
NOVEMBER	
DECEMBER	

Church Staff and Support Personnel Email Addresses

Facility.NUMC@Zoomtown.com
Music.NUMC@Zoomtown.com
Office.NUMC@Zoomtown.com
Outreach.NUMC@Zoomtown.com
Pastor.NUMC@Zoomtown.com
Publicity.NUMC@Zoomtown.com
Treasurer.NUMC@Zoomtown.com

Craig Correll
 Kristy Swift
 Phyllis Fought
 Jennifer McComb
 Pastor Katie Steele
 Robin Steinmetz
 Clay Anderson

3546 Church Street
 Newtown, OH
 45244

PHONE:
 (513) 561-6678

Pastoral Needs

If you have a need for Pastoral services, please contact Pastor Katie by calling the Church office at 513-561-6678 or email Pastor Katie at pastor.numc@zoomtown.com

If you have an urgent need after office hours, contact Pastor Katie at home at (513) 843-5520.

CHURCH MESSAGE BOARD

- ❖ If you would like to sponsor the **Chimes** please place a donation of \$47.00 (checks payable to the church) in an envelope marked **Chimes**.
- ❖ If you would like to sponsor the **Sunday Bulletin**, the cost is \$30 per month. Please place your donation (checks payable to the church) in the offering plate marked **Sunday Bulletin**.

IPM Oasis Fundraiser

It's time to sip, taste and sample!

Inter Parish Ministry's Circle of Hope Celebration '17 will take place on April 30th at the Oasis Conference Center in Loveland from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Chaired by Kris and Steve Mullin, This year's event includes great tastes from area restaurants such as the Urban Grill, The National Exemplar and more. Led by Master of Ceremonies, **Thom Brennaman**, the event includes a silent and live auction, a Keeneland Sign-up Party, and mystery bowls.



The event **will honor** this year's Circle of Hope Recipients Peggy Magnesen, Earl Mills and Dale and Mary Moore, One of a Kind Recipient Shannon Mills and Builders of Hope Recipients Dick Durand and Erick Harback.

Live Auction items include an On Air Experience with 92.5's **Jay Gilberth**, Acoustical Concert with Dan Varner, Lobsta Bakes of Maine "Dinner on the Porch", and more.

The Circle of Hope Celebration '17 tickets are \$55 each or \$500 for a table of ten. Corporate sponsorships are also available.

To make reservations go to www.interparish.org

All proceeds from the event will help InterParishMinistry fund not only the food and clothing pantries, but also our outreach events including mobile food pantries, emergency assistance, and holiday assistance program.

Don't Forget – Register for Camp!

Several folks have already expressed an interest in attending this year's Family Camp at Camp Otterbein July 21-23. It's bound to be a great weekend and we would love to have you join us. This is a friendly reminder to register soon, so you have the best chance at reserving your preferred housing option. Go to www.westhiocamps.com to register and tell Pastor Katie when you do! Happy Camping!

Church Recycling

Did you know, our church recycles? We do our best to keep unnecessary waste out of the landfills but we need your help. Instead of tossing your water bottle, soda can or even your bulletin in the trash, lets recycle it. Look for the blue cans that are throughout our building or the large green recycling cart. Let us all pitch in to make every day an earth day!