



# The VISITOR

## THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TALLMADGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



### Who Do You Say That I Am?

Happy Easter! The timing of this newsletter is such that you have received it on Easter weekend via email or within a day or two after Easter via your mail carrier. So this reality, if you read this newsletter expediently, is that you will read this message at the beginning of the Easter season. So often our culture is such that we spend more time and energy in anticipation of an event than we do in appreciation of and living in the event. At least that's what we do in the church with Christmas and Easter. We emphasize Christmas and begin singing Carols and fun Christmas songs during Advent, just like we anticipate the Resurrection Sunday all through Lent, then once the actual day has come and gone, we move on.

One of the tools of exegesis (a scholarly term that refers to the critical interpretation of Scripture) is to look at a Scripture passage within the context of the other stories around that passage. And in the four Gospels it is enlightening to look at the parallel passages within the other two and sometimes three gospels. The synoptic gospels are Matthew, Mark, and Luke which means they often have their version of the same stories. John occasionally has the stories in parallel, but is really a different sort of literary style which is more of a theological reflection of the spiritual and earthly life of Christ Jesus.

So here is the primary question that we all must answer in our faith. This question that Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" As we have just experienced Easter and all of its fullness of the Risen Savior, how do we live life beyond the emotional mountain top of Easter. Will we be an Easter People putting our whole trust in Christ and following his ways of love? Will we take seriously Jesus' commandment to love one another as I have loved you?

When Jesus asked his disciples the question, "Who do you say that I am?" they had been in the midst of seeing Jesus heal a woman's demon possessed daughter and he brought sight to a blind man. Then they witnessed the feeding of 5,000 or 4,000 or both with a few loaves and some fish. Then in sequence, they were in a boat crossing Lake Galilea when they were worried because they only had one loaf of bread! Worried! Really? According to Matthew and Mark's accounts, Jesus reminded them to beware of the "leaven" or teaching of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. I believe that Jesus was saying that they live in a world dependent upon material and power, that they do not trust in the eternal God of abundance, but instead, they only see scarcity and thus become selfish. Jesus has literally shown the disciples abundance in feeding thousands, then having baskets of leftovers!

Thus, the stage is set for the disciples to answer the question, "Who do you say that I am?" After some ideas about him being John the Baptist or a reincarnated prophet of old, Simon Peter leads the way in proclaiming, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!"

This does not mean that Peter completely falls in line and lives as if he has complete faith. In the next conversation, Jesus foretells of his death on the cross. And Peter rebukes him!

And we all know that Peter denies Christ three times before the rooster crowed on crucifixion day.

So, in all our imperfections, how do we answer Jesus' question as we enter this Easter season? Am I a person of little faith, withering in the darkness of scarcity like the Pharisees and Sadducees? Or am I here to walk in an abundant faith based on the knowledge of Jesus' miracles, including the greatest miracle of all, the Resurrection from the grave?  
"Who do you say that I am?"

Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Scott

# BIBLE STUDIES & GROUPS

Here are the latest opportunities to strengthen your faith and connect with the church community.



## GROWING CHRISTIANS

The Sunday School class meets every week following the early worship service.

New members and visitors are always welcome! We invite you to share your joys and concerns, hear the perspectives of others, and enrich your worship experience.

Join us today at 10:00 in the Pioneer Room right after the 9:00 service.



## GROUP STUDY/ DISCUSSION

In-person & zoom Tuesdays 11:00 AM. Pastor Scott is examining the Scripture passage & developing the sermon for the following Sunday morning.

Please email Pastor Scott to be added to our group: [smlow45@gmail.com](mailto:smlow45@gmail.com)



## QUILTERS GROUP

The Quilters group of women who love to Sew and Quilt for all occasions. They quilt small, and large quilts. They are always looking for people to join them! They gather weekly on Thursdays at 9:00 AM, in the Quilters Room.

They are currently looking for people who enjoy quilting and sewing. If you are interested, and would like more information, please contact: Sally Hill Carol Cotton Karen Viall Donna Brown

# BIBLE STUDIES & GROUPS



## MEN'S GROUP

Men, join this group for coffee, donuts & friendship. Each week, a different person leads a faith-related devotion/discussion that may begin with Scripture or a topic of choice. As needed, this group also helps with projects.

**Thursdays 8:30 AM (Church Pioneer Room)**



## AD COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting is April 11th, 2024  
@ 7:00 PM in the Pioneer Room  
All members of the church may attend the meeting.



## Women's Monthly Breakfast

TUMC women's fellowship has been growing. We would love you to join us on the second Saturday of each month. This month it will be **April 13th at 9:00am** (Jael Chapter). Everyone loves the Brimfield Panera, so we go there and have coffee, breakfast, and some discussion about women of the Bible. join us for great fellowship!

## CHILDREN'S Sunday School

### Children's Sunday School

Travis Darago has volunteered to lead for the school year. We still need 2 adults in the room per TUMC policy. Please Consider signing up to help!

[Click Here Online](#)  
or scan the code below





## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jacob Cole	1	Craig Schley	13	Vita Hoedt	24
Sally Hill	1	Fred Cotton	13	Leah Evans	25
Marilyn Wolfgang	3	Dorothy Murphy	14	Gary Wolfgang	25
Vicki Bolovan	6	Adamina Sudzina	16	Margie Goodell	25
Ernie Cole	8	Alex Brummett	19	Bradley Cole	27
Sarah Smith (Adam & Julie)	10	Sonya Cole	19	Bill Murphy	29
Danny Bolovan	11	Justin Stewart	20	Dorothy Krannich	29
Rachel Berlan	12	Michael Burke	24		



## Prayer for Healing

Dawn Alo  
 Herb Baker  
 Laurie Bartlett  
 Jessica Beck  
 Vicki Benedetto  
 Carol Collins  
 Andy Cotton  
 Mary Duff (Tammy Mollohan's Mother)  
 Karen Henry's brother Steve  
 Luke Ondracek  
 Zack & Ashley Peterson family (Mother with terminal cancer)

Lori Schley's brother Mike  
 Craig Schley  
 Debbie Schmid  
 Donna Stewart  
 Jim and Robin Szcakacs  
 Walter & Dorothy Wilson (Susan's Grandparents)  
 Amy Yost

### Condolences to the family and friends of:

Pat Wilkey  
 Harriet Oros

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **TALLMADGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 200 YEAR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

We are in the process of preparing for our 200 Year Bicentennial Celebration and are looking for volunteers to help with this special occasion. The celebration will be on October 5th, 2025. If you are interested in helping, please contact Karen Henry. Leave a message at 330-608-2083.



### **ASPIRE LADIES CONFERENCE - NORTH CANTON**

Let's do it ladies! We had a wonderful time last year! Admission is \$20/person. We will be organizing a group to attend. Three women provide an evening of song, comedy and fellowship. Any Questions? Call Janet Neubert 330-289-9473. Car Pooling Available.



### **BUSY WOMAN BOOK STUDY**

Wednesdays 8:45pm

See Susan Sudzina if interested!

### **CINCO DE MAYO**

Sunday May 5,  
2024



Lunch at 11:35 after the 10:30 Worship Service will include both hard and soft shell beef and chicken tacos and all the fixin's!

We'll have great fun, games, and music as we enjoy our time together!

PLEASE RSVP on the sign-up or call the church office so we can have plenty of food.



### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

VBS this year will be Sunday June 2nd through Thursday June 6th. Contact Travis Darago if you would like more information. Sign-up sheets will be posted soon.

SPAN MINISTRIES & TALLMADGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TEAM UP TO  
**SPRING INTO  
ACTION**

**SATURDAY, MAY 4 | 8AM - 12:30PM**

MEET AT SPAN AT 8:00AM (361 NORTHEAST AVE.) FOR PRAYER, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, & WORK TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

END AT TALLMADGE UMC (207 N. MUNROE RD) FOR LUNCH AND SHARING GRATITUDE FOR THE WORK WE'VE SHARED.

*\*BRING WORK GLOVES, RAKES, TARPS, AND OTHER LAWN TOOLS. LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE BETTER SUITED TO HELP WITH FOOD PREP.*

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS HELP WITH YOUR OUTSIDE SPRING CLEANUP, PLEASE CALL 330-633-3734. IF NO ONE ANSWERS, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AND SOMEONE WILL GET BACK WITH YOU.

WORK COULD INCLUDE RAKING, PICKING UP STICKS AND DEBRIS, WEEDING, MULCHING, POWER WASHING, FENCE PAINTING, POSSIBLY MINOR REPAIRS.

CALL AHEAD SO THAT WE CAN HAVE SOMEONE STOP BY TO ASSESS YOUR JOB TO DETERMINE SUPPLIES AND WORK TEAM SIZE.



## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

### MISSION TRIP

The Mission Trip this year will be Sunday, June 23rd to Saturday, June 29th through Good Works Athens. Contact Pastor Scott Low if you would like more information.



### BLUE DEVILS DARE TO SHARE (D2S) program.

D2S is a weekend nutrition program that provides food to kids in need in the Tallmadge Schools. To help with packing and delivery, contact Pastor Scott.



### TUMC LOVE FUND

Our church has a fund that allows Pastor Scott to confidentially help persons/families in need.



### TO GIVE TO ANY OF THESE MISSIONS

Note on your check or GIVE on the church website and click "Other" at checkout and it will require you to note what it is for. Thank you for your generosity!

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