

# “THE CHIMES”

Volume 16, Special Edition

May 2020

## New to Mt. Tabor?

Welcome! Know that wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome to join us in our quest to discover God. We offer a variety of ways to grow in your faith, to serve the world, and to reach out to others with the love of Jesus Christ. This newsletter is a little window into who we are as a faith community. We'd love to have you join us in worship on Sunday mornings, or if you'd like more information, contact us and we'll get back to you. Thanks, and may God bless your search for Him.



## Mt. Tabor's Mission Statement

*Our mission is to reach, welcome, and serve all people so that we and others can become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.*

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## “Kandel's Korner”

Rev. Clark Kandel



The date was Sunday October 19th, 2003 and it just so **happened that October 19th is my wife Linda's birthday.** And I had just finished reading a book (Tuesdays with Mory). The book makes the strong suggestion that we tell the people we love how much they mean to us while they are still alive. Say it now. Say it so they understand and can appreciate how much they mean to us. There are reasons why we love people and if you have not told your loved ones why they are important to you - today is a good day to take the plunge.

So I wrote my sermon the week prior to Linda's birthday outlining some of the reasons I loved her then and why I love her still. When I wrote the sermon we had been married for 54 years. Now we have been married for 62 years. So here is part of what I said to her and to the congregation:

I believe it was Mark Twain who said it. He said: “I approached **marriage as my last, best opportunity to grow up.**” I think our marriage has provided both of us that same opportunity. We have **helped each other grow up. Oh, it's not that we are complete or whole** or that we have no more work to do. But we have helped each other grow up. Love did that for us and love does that for you.

Whatever else we might want to say about love, surely we need to say that love is a miracle of God - something like a sunset. There are sunsets so beautiful that you want to preserve them, hold them, fix them for all eternity.

But sunsets and love are constantly changing, moving, shifting, emerging, morphing into something new. Love cannot be bottled, packaged, frozen or preserved. Love is the most dynamic of energies. And though we try our best to manage it - more often than not, love manages us.

Love comes through us. It is part of us, yet it is way bigger than us, transcends us and transforms us. Love is of God. We are given the **opportunity to live in love's presence, love's promise and love's peace.** Life afforded us the opportunity to love each other, to grow with each other, to hold, protect and care for each other and we are the richer for it.

Clark



## LATEST UPDATES

I find myself wanting you to know and understand as we attempt to be the church in these unparalleled days of pandemic. **It's impossible to say it all. But perhaps this much will help.**

Mt. Tabor decided about 9 months ago to streamline the decision making apparatus of our congregation. So now we have a board of directors to handle matters that require decisions. Currently the following people are serving on the board:

*Reggie McGee - Chairman, Wes Rohrer, Deb Bayer-Bredon, Julie Brown,  
Vic Varian, Denny Myers, and Mark Kandel.*

This board has been meeting every Tuesday evening at 6pm via a phone conference call system. It is remarkable the number of matters that they have tackled - matters complicated by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Here are a few of the issues that have demanded their attention

- Obviously we had to figure out what it meant to close the church and how we were to proceed when told we had to close our doors. We discovered we had people with vision and knowledge to find a way forward, but it took time, energy and trial and error.
- We acknowledged the resignation of Jim Sharp as custodian and needed to write a new job description.
- **We've been busy, busy, busy trying to improve the weekly broadcast.**
- There were insurance matters that had to be addressed.
- There were bills and expenses that needed approval.
- There are always conference apportionments that must be considered.
- All of us have been indebted to Logan McGee for his expertise in getting us up and going with our weekly broadcasts. He has saved us time and money.

This by no means covers all that the board has concerned itself with, but it gives you some sense of what they have been about. I am personally grateful to have this remarkable body working with me as we try to navigate through perilous waters. Their wisdom and devotion have made my work here a blessing.

*With appreciation,  
Clark*



Mt. Tabor UMC's donations to the Community Cupboard go to The East Canton Church of God, which houses our Community Cupboard (food pantry) and distributes food to local residents in need. The food is donated by area churches, individuals, schools, and organizations. I normally contact Mary Puskarich of the Church of God each month for a list of items the food pantry can use. Thanks to our secretary Sandy Hamilton, these items are noted in our Chimes and posted on the bulletin board across from our church office.

The donation bin is across from the Sonshine Center door, near the elevator. When you donate items at our church, Allen Nennig takes them to the Church of God each month (Thank you, Allen!), where they are distributed to people in need. Since our church has been closed, I have not submitted a Community Cupboard article to the Chimes for March and April. However, this week I talked with Mary, and she wanted to be sure that our church knew we are invited to contribute. The next food giveaway at the Church of God will be Monday, May 11. Items that are needed are noodles, Hamburger and Tuna Helper, canned fruits and vegetables, and disinfectant cleaners. If you are able and would like to donate, you may drop off items at the back of the church of God, where the first set of double doors are not locked. If you'd like to make a monetary donation, send it to Mary Puskarich, East Canton Church of God, 201 E. Nassau St., East Canton, OH 44730. Specify food bank on your check.

Thank you, take care of each other, and God bless you! -- Diana Spaulding



Now for some very good news. We issued a special edition of the church newsletter telling you of our financial plight and you responded!

One week later we received a 4th Sunday (4/26/2020) offering of \$4300.62. That's the highest 4th Sunday offering we have received for a long time!

Thank each and every one of you for responding. Your response has encouraged the entire leadership team.

God bless you all!

Money Matters by Charlotte Schweitzer, Treasurer



Hello, below is a quick update on the offerings. There has been apparent **sacrificial** giving on the part of some of the congregation. You know who you are...and thanks is not enough. I am very grateful.

Thank you to all who are sending in your contributions or giving online.

Blessings.

Average Weekly: thru April (17 weeks)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Budget	3,222.17	3,403.85	3,520.44	3,578.92
Actual	3,160.04	2,987.21	2,677.00	2,599.44
Short	(62.13)	(416.64)	(843.44)	(979.48)
% of Budget	98.07%	87.76%	76.04%	72.63%



Percent change from prior year			
	'17 to '18	'18 to '19	19 to '20
Budget	5.64%	3.43%	1.66%
Actual	-5.47%	-10.38%	-2.90%
Net change:	-11.11% negative	-13.81% negative	-4.56% negative



Our United Methodist Bishop, Tracy Malone, has put together a task force to think through how we might proceed forward in opening our churches once we get the go ahead from the governor and local officials. We are not yet there of course, but it is important that you know people are working on a plan to do this and do it in a measured and sensible way. Stay tuned!

When this is over,  
may we never again  
take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbors  
A crowded theatre  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.

When this ends,  
may we find  
that we have become  
more like the people  
we wanted to be  
we were called to be  
we hoped to be  
and may we stay  
that way—better  
for each other  
because of the worst.

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Change Service Requested

Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30am.



SUNDAY WORSHIP:

10:30 am

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