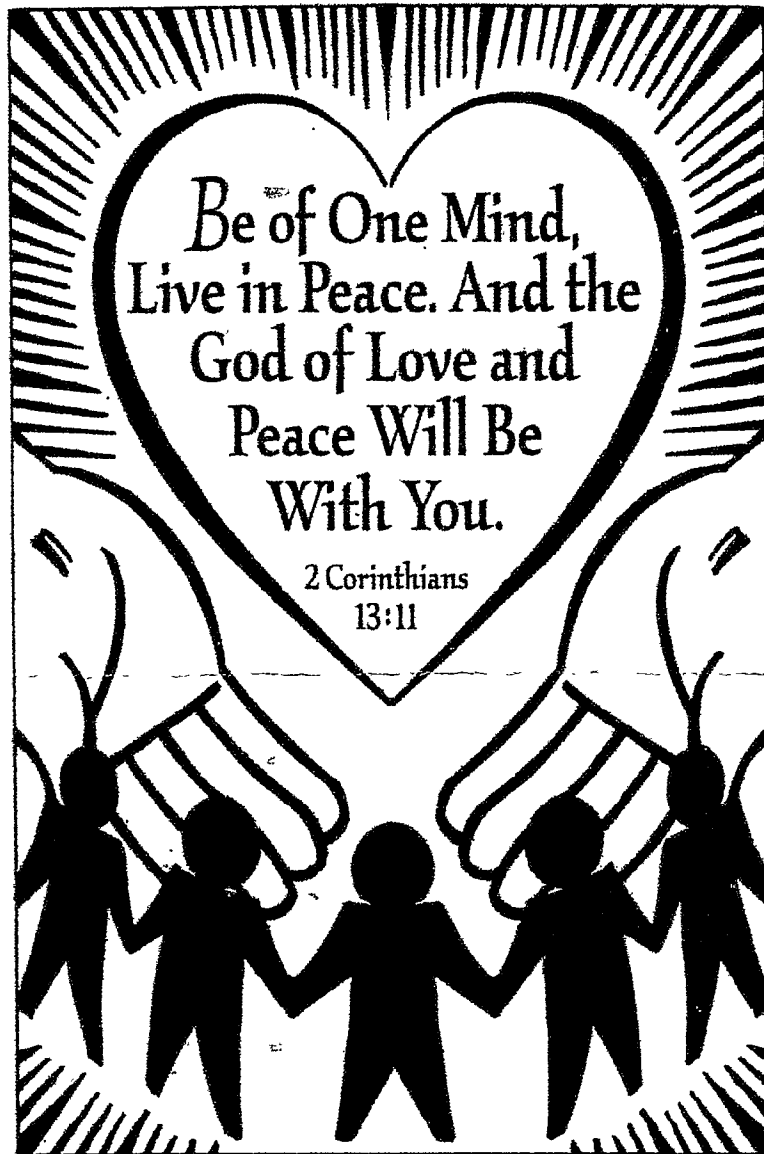


The MESSENGER

Rev. Michelle Forsyth
989-826-5521 or 989-903-5264
January, 2022 Vol. 1.22

News from Around the Congregation

Mio United Methodist Church
1101 W. 8th St, Mio, MI 48647,
989-826-5598



Put your hand in the hand of God as you start the New Year. Then the New Year will be a fresh adventure every morning and a quiet benediction every night. You will be alive in every portion of your being. You will be aware of God and man.

--- E. Stanley Jones

Pastor's Ponderings

Even though 2021 Christmas is in the past, the memories we created will be with us forever. For the past two years, I have been blessed and thankful for the memories we have made together. For me, Advent and Christmastide seasons are my favorite. It is difficult for me to take down all the Christmas decorations. All the beautiful Christmas cards that adorn the table have to be taken down. The Advent wreath that reminds me of God's blessings will go back in its box and be stored away. I wonder how many of us took time during Advent to be still and count the many blessings God has gifted us?

In our Advent Bible study, *The Redemption of Scrooge*, Matt Rawle, the author, asks an excellent question in session three. The iconic phrase, "God bless Us, Every One," said by Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit's youngest child, should reverberate throughout the Christian year. Matt Rawle asks us what it could look like if our communities lived as though God had already blessed everyone. What would be different, and why?

First of all, look closely at Tiny Tim's phrase. Charles Dickens uses two words for every one, not one word, everyone. You can't use everyone and every one in the same way. Put differently, God's blessings are specific gifts for each living creature. God's salvation reaches every one of God's creations.

Matt comments that "not all of God's blessings have come to fruition." I agree. Not "every one" knows God loves them and yearns to live life with God. Not "every one" knows they can live life abundantly on this side of heaven. Not "every one" knows the importance of being part of something bigger than themselves. Not "every one" knows that the biggest blessing they will ever receive is finding a faith family and living life with them.

We are blessed to have a church to call home my brothers and sisters. But, how many others can say the same? We are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Maybe for our new year's resolutions, we should make it a goal to let "every one" know God's love. And how do we do that? By growing more in love with God ourselves, so that the Holy Spirit that lives in us draws "every one" to us, otherwise known as the church.

I am excited about creating new and unforgettable memories with all of you in 2022. It is such a blessing living life with all of you. Thank you for making 2021 so incredibly wonderful. I am eagerly anticipating what God has in store for us in 2022. And I am so thankful I get to do 2022 with all of you!

God Bless Us, Every One!

Pastor Michelle

A REMINDER:

Communion – 1st Sunday of each month.

Trustees – 1st Sunday of each month after worship.

Ad Council – 2nd Monday at 7 pm every other month beginning in February

UMM – 2nd Sunday of each month after worship.

Prayer Bears – 3rd Wednesday at 1 pm at Nancy Crane's home. Exception: No meeting in December.

UMW – 4th Monday of every month at 1 pm.

Exception: No meeting in December.

SPRC – At call of Chairman

Missions – At call of Chairman

DIRECT \$\$\$ now stands at \$51,000.00.
Keep those Family Fare receipts coming! When we get to \$150,000.00 we will receive another \$1000.00.

UMW MAKING CHANGES

Beginning January 24th the UMW will meet at 1:00 pm. This is in keeping with the 4th Monday of the month. It is hoped that this will help several who do not want to drive at night and it will be a time for more interesting programs and field trips. All women of the church are welcome.

Mission's Report

Thank you, Church, for your support of our Mission outreach this year. It has touched those here in the local area and beyond. We were able to double our giving from previous years due to your generous support and the added giving from the Mabel Hager Fund to specific local

needs we have here in our community. Also our giving of items to Midwest Mission Distribution Center and to Operation Christmas Child, is a great blessing to those ministries. Our Soup and Pie supper was very well supported and was a blessing to help bring us out of the Covid doldrums for an evening. God has blessed us mightily as we prayed for and gave to all the hands and feet around our world.

In December we served six families, with a total of 24 adults and children this year for the Adopt a Family Christmas gift program. Each family was given Christmas gifts and a Family Fare gift card worth \$30 per person in the family. Continue to keep these Adopt a Families in your prayers.

Due to the tremendous devastation from the tornados that reached across parts of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois, we will make an earlier than usual appeal for funds for UMCOR. So, the United Methodist Committee on Relief will be our Mission focus in the month of January. Below is an exert from their website.

Following the devastating and deadly string of December storms and tornadoes, UMCOR is supporting conference disaster response coordinators as search and rescue efforts continue and damage assessments begin. Solidarity grants to provide immediate funding are being released and UMCOR will work with impacted areas to journey from the chaos of response on through long-term recovery. Please continue to hold victims, survivors and relief workers in your prayers and make a gift to UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery.

Thank you for any and all the support you can manage in these days of inflation, so that those hit by disaster can be blessed with recovery. Susan

PS. Any members wishing to join our Mission Committee please call 989-745-6744. Dreaming of doing a hands-on mission event....

**2022 MIO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

*** Bold Print indicates new
officers/committee members**

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ad Council Chairperson	Dave Gordon
Ad Council Vice-Chairperson	William Kusey
Ad Council Secretary	Marlene Gordon
Lay Leader	Nancy Crane
Lay Member to MAC	Bob Hegel/Alternate
Lay Member to MAC	TBA
SPRC Chairperson	Bob Hegel
Church Treasurer	Kris Vaughn
Asst' Treasurer	Barb Kann
Financial Secretary	Dave Gordon
Asst' Financial Secretary	CarolLynn VanNorman
Finance Chairperson	Kris Vaughn
Worship Co-Chairperson	Roma Galbraith
Worship Co-Chairperson	Marlene Gordon
Mission Chairperson	Susan Hegel
Memorial Co-Chairperson	Kathy Dudek
Memorial Co-Chairperson	Marlene Gordon
Kitchen Chairperson	Dawn Hall
United Methodist Women	Nancy Crane
United Methodist Men	William Kusey

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Member-at-Large	Barbara Butler
Member-at-Large	Nancy Crane
Member-at-Large	Lynn Galbraith
Member-at-Large	Glen Hall
Member-at-Large	Dennis Maier
Member-at-Large	Becky Sidebottom
Member-at-Large	Jerry Doll
Member-at-Large	Dennis Kann

**ALL NEW OFFICERS WILL ASSUME DUTIES
ON JANUARY 1, 2022 AND CURRENT
OFFICERS WILL CONTINUE THEIR WORK.**

**LAY LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT/
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Class of 2022

Marilyn Schultz
Barbara Kann
Marlene Gordon

Class of 2023

Carol-Lynn VanNorman
Dennis Maier
Sue Kowaleski

Class of 2024

Becky Sidebottom
Ellen Peters
Barbara Butler

STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Class of 2022

Kris Vaughn
Dawn Hall
Don Peters

Class of 2023

Bob Hegel
Barb Kann
Becky Sidebottom

Class of 2024

Sue Kowaleski
Kathy Dudek
Gloria Phillips

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2022

Dick Lord
Sue Kowaleski
Mike Dorn

Class of 2023

Dawn Hall
Dennis Kann
Lynn Galbraith

Class of 2024

Gary Sidebottom
Glen Hall
Don Peters

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Carol-Lynn VanNorman
Dick Lord

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 – Jane Lord
12 – Brandon Burzlaff
23 – Bob Forsyth
25 – Dick Lord
29 – Sue Kowaleski

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

NONE

Several names on the Prayer Concerns have been removed as they were at the beginning of 2021. If there is a name that should be put back on the list, please see Marlene. This is not a problem but we would like to keep the Prayer Concerns current.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Charlie & Barb Abbott

Paul Ciske

Nancy Dercher

Glen & Dawn Hall

Kim Stitt

Taylor & Jackson

Andrea Walz

Avery Walz Simone

COVID PATIENTS:

Kim Phillips – Josh – Chloe

SHUT-INS

At The Brook – Grayling

Marge Bryant

MILITARY

All Armed Forces

Corey Brown

River Grishaber

Whitney Kann

I resolve to:

- Pray each day.
- Worship each Sunday.
- Give my tithe for God's work each week whether I attend church or not.
- Accept the responsibility of serving on a committee or in the office of the church to which I was elected.

SEASONS OF CHANGE

How blessed we are to live in Michigan where we can enjoy the change of seasons. Each one when it comes reveals the loving heart of God as the beauty of nature unfolds before us.

The winter season is now upon us as it tip toes in ever so gently and quietly as we wait for the snowfalls that change the landscape with a billowy white blanket that transforms the scenery into a pure, sparkling wonderland.

Can we compare it to our invitation for the Lord o come into our lives with His transforming love, as it gently falls on us and changes the appearance of our hearts and lives.

His precious blood shed for us starts to bring a whiteness and purity as "In Christ we are new creations the old has passed away and behold the fresh and new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Just as the snow falls afresh on the landscape "the Spirit of the Living God falls afresh on us a He melts us, molds us, fills us and uses us to share His transforming love with others and help them find a new and live changing season that will blanket their hearts.

Submitted by Barbara Butler

With God, You're a Majority

Anne Graham Lotz JOY OF MY HEART Meditating Daily on God's Word

"He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ".

Philippians 1:6, NKJV

God is looking for a few good men and women.

Men and women who are willing --

to go against the current of popular opinion,

to hold firm convictions in a world where "anything goes,"

to speak the truth when it is not politically correct,

to walk with God when everyone else is running away from Him.

God is looking for those who believe --

that what He says is more important than what anyone else says,

that what He thinks is more important than what anyone else thinks,

that what He wants is more important than what anyone else wants.

that His will is more important than their own.

God is looking for another Noah.

Another Meshach.

Another Shadrach. Another Abednego.

One person with God is not alone but a majority!

From God's Story

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30 AM Worship	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Trustees 10:45 AM Unhanging of Greens	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM UMM	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 AM Worship	17	18	19 1:00 PM Prayer Bears	20	21	22
23 9:30 AM Worship	24 1:00 PM UMW	25	26 8:00 AM Happy Crafters	27 8:00 AM Happy Crafters	28 8:00 AM Happy Crafters	29
30 9:30 AM Worship	31	1	2	3	4	5