



WELCOME TO OUR

Monthly Newsletter

Epiphany

We are now Epiphany season. Epiphany is a word meaning “manifestation.” The manifestation refers to the appearance or revelation of God. It is celebrated on Sunday, January 7 as an observance of the Wise Men coming to see Jesus. This was the first manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles.



Epiphany Worship

Other manifestations were the baptism of Jesus and the first miracle performed at the Wedding of Cana when he turned water into wine. And of course, all the miracles of Jesus performed were manifestations of his divine power.

The season of Epiphany continues until Ash Wednesday, which is the beginning of Lent, February 14.

In this newsletter you will find:



Church Council Update, Mardi Gras, Clothing Pantry Info, and more.

Keep Reading!



The Magi gave three gifts to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The gifts were Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. You can give gifts to others in your life as part of your Epiphany celebration.

Eight Gifts That Don't Cost You a Cent!

Are you looking for a positive way to connect with friends and family? With the New Year upon us, take the opportunity to share a gift and a moment that does not cost even one cent.

The Gift of Listening

You must really listen. Do not interrupt, daydream, or plan your response – just listen.

The Gift of Affection

Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

The Gift of Laughter

Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, “I love to laugh with you.”

The Gift of a Compliment

A simple and sincere, “You look great in red,” “You did a super job,” or “That was a wonderful meal” can make someone’s day.

The Gift of a Favor

Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

The Gift of a Written Note

A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

The Gift of Solitude

There are times when we want nothing more than to be alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition

The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone by saying hello or thank you.

Families and friends are a rare jewel. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.





Coming Up In January

Worship

We witness to the transforming power of Christ through our regular presence in worship. Invite a friend or a neighbor to come with you to worship.

Human Relations Offering

Human Relations Sunday was established by 1972 General Conference to support community organizers and United Methodist volunteers. This special offering will be on Sunday, January 14.

January 21st

On January 21st we will have the Goden Angels singing and it will also be Brown Bag Sunday. We bring items to help fill the clothing Pantry for the needy in our community.

Sunday School

Sunday School has resumed on January 7th. If you would be interested in helping teach the children, please talk to Tracy Weber.

Five Minute Testimony

Looking for volunteers to share their faith—the difference Jesus has made in your life. You will have five-minutes to tell people about your joy and excitement of following Jesus. If interested, please speak with Pastor Dass. Thanks.

Bibles Study

There is a Bible Study Calendar for the year on the table in the Narthex, or in your email inbox. You can read the entire bible chapter by chapter in one year.

Coming Up In February

Clothing Pantry

February is our month to staff the Clothes Pantry. The hours are Sunday 1:00-3:00, Wednesday 5:00-7:00, and Saturday 10:00–12:00. There will be a sign-up sheet at church, or you can let Kathy know when you would be available to help out. Her number is 515-321-3609. Thanks!

Mardi Gras

Would you be interested in having a Mardi Gras party here?

Lent

Ash Wednesday is on February 14th this year. Worship service will be at 7:00 pm



Lenten Bible Study

Would you be interested in participating in a Lenten Bible Study? If so please let Pastor Das know.



Mardi Gras Celebration



The day before Ash Wednesday is called Mardi Gras, that is French for Fat Tuesday. In many areas, however, Mardi Gras has evolved into a week-long festival.

Mardi Gras is a Christian holiday and popular cultural phenomenon that dates back thousands of years to pagan spring and fertility rites. Also known as Carnival or Carnaval, it's celebrated in many countries around the world—mainly those with large Roman Catholic populations—on the day before the religious season of Lent begins.

Traditionally, in the days leading up to Lent, merrymakers would binge on all the rich, fatty foods—meat, eggs, milk, lard and cheese—that remained in their homes, in anticipation of several weeks of eating only fish and different types of fasting.

The first American Mardi Gras took place on March 3, 1699, when French explorers Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville and Sieur de Bienville landed near present-day New Orleans, Louisiana. They held a small celebration and dubbed their landing spot Point du Mardi Gras.

In the decades that followed, New Orleans and other French settlements began marking the holiday with street parties, masked balls and lavish dinners. When the Spanish took control of New Orleans, however, they abolished these rowdy rituals, and the bans remained in force until Louisiana became a U.S. state in 1812.

On Mardi Gras in 1827, a group of students donned colorful costumes and danced through the streets of New Orleans, emulating the revelry they'd observed while visiting Paris. Ten years later, the first recorded New Orleans Mardi Gras parade took place, a tradition that continues to this day.

Louisiana is the only state in which Mardi Gras is a legal holiday. However, elaborate carnival festivities draw crowds in other parts of the United States during the Mardi Gras season as well, including Alabama and Mississippi. Each region has its own events and traditions.



Would you be interested in coming to a Mardi Gras Party? Would you like to help host a party here at church for the community? We would have 5 weeks to plan, organize and advertise for the event. If you are interested in helping please contact Eileen at the office.

Party Ideas:

1. Mask Decorating
2. Scavenger Hunt
3. Decorating King Cakes
4. Pin the Mask on the Jester
5. Bead Toss
6. Photo Booth



December Church Council Highlights

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the community Thanksgiving service, Joane's funeral meal, and decorating the church for Christmas. Thank you to Eileen for ordering the poinsettias.

Thank you to Kathy Parmenter for making the Thanksgiving baskets possible for 18 families. Kathy also organized the wishing tree and volunteers helped provide Christmas gifts for 14 children in our community.

Thank you to Tracy and Robin for providing children's messages in church and Sunday school lessons. The life of our church depends on volunteers, and you are all appreciated.

Hearing devices are now operational. They are easy to use, and the sound is clear.

Council will be completing a calendar and organization chart in January to assist in planning 2024. Please contribute event ideas and consider volunteering to take the lead on one or two events.

Financially, our church is in the black and two more months of apportionments were paid to total 10 months of payments so far this year.

Chase Brown, our regional insurance rep, attended the meeting and answered questions about our insurance coverage with Church Mutual Select. See a council member for more information.

Sunday School Christmas Presentation

This year's Sunday School Christmas Presentation was developed by Josh Weber and Jack Purdy. They put together a program called "Symbols of Christmas". The symbols were the star, the wreath, the lights and the candy cane.

The symbol was explained, followed by a song sung after each symbol. After the Star the song "O Holy Night" was sung, "Deck the Halls" followed the wreath, "This Little light of Mine" was after the lights. And the finale was "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" after the candy cane.

In the Picture below are Josh Weber and Tracy Weber in the back row, Jack Purdy and Asher Weeks in the front row. Also, present were Emmett and Aurora Weeks



Winter Mission Work with GoServ Global

from Craig Henry

GoServ Global's disaster response teams provide immediate assistance, equipment, resources, and hope after a natural disaster. We also train disaster relief volunteers and support domestic mission trips for neglected towns, neighborhoods, and families across the Midwest.



We would like to take a group to help in Kentucky, or a surrounding area, hopefully in late January or early February for one week. If you would like more information, or are interested in helping out, please get in touch with Craig Henry. You can also check out their website at <https://www.goservglobal.org/> for additional information.

Stained-Glass Window Inserts

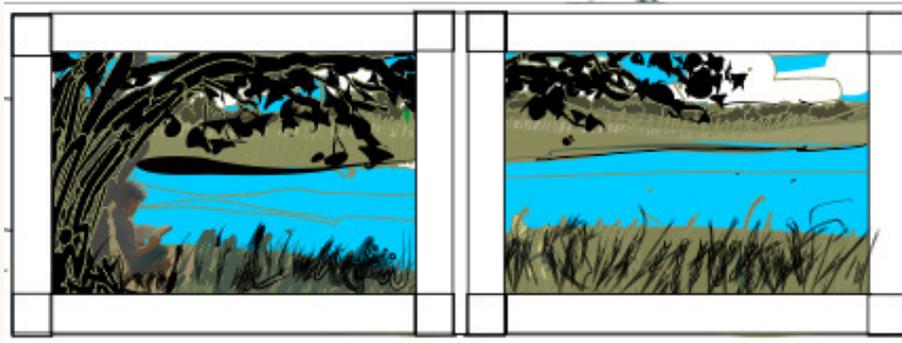
Below is a concept idea put forth by Richard Shook, a stained-glass artisan from Slater. Mr. Shook is the person that repaired and changed the stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary.



This past summer due to damage in the south wall from water the windows there were updated with new windows. It has been suggested that perhaps we would like some stained-glass inserts added to the windows.

The stained glass would be inserted in the four center windows. These windows measure 24 inches X 40 inches. We would hope that the windows would be donated by our congregation.

Please let a member of the council know how you feel about this change to the window or if you would like more information about this project before we go any further.



January Calendar



- | | |
|---|---|
| Jan 4: Martial Arts Class 6-8 PM | Jan 16: Martial Arts Class 6-8 PM |
| Jan 7: Communion Worship 9:30 AM
Epiphany Service of
Commitment and Healing
3:00 PM Fort Dodge | Jan 18: Martial Arts Class 6-8 PM |
| Jan 9: Martial Arts Class 6-8 PM | Jan 21: Brown Bag Sunday
Worship 9:30 AM |
| Jan 10: Church Council Meeting 6:30 PM | Jan 23: Martial Arts Class 6-8 PM |
| Jan 11: Martial Arts Class 6-8 PM | Jan 25: Martial Arts Class 6-8 PM |
| Jan 14: Worship Service 9:30 AM | Jan 28: Worship 9:30 AM |
| | Jan 30: Martial Arts Class 6-8 PM |
| | Feb 1: Martial Arts Class 6-8 PM |

Puzzles

January Word Search

Z	P	I	S	K	B	T	R	N	F	R	O	S	T	Y	P	R	A
B	L	A	N	K	E	T	K	A	T	A	D	H	I	D	L	D	A
C	A	W	I	X	U	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	V	G	O	M	M
H	N	I	F	H	B	L	I	Z	Z	A	R	D	I	H	S	V	F
I	Z	N	F	S	T	O	Z	L	N	E	A	N	S	J	P	G	R
M	Y	T	L	Z	J	M	D	Q	S	H	O	O	D	I	E	L	E
N	M	E	E	H	I	B	E	R	N	A	T	E	L	E	N	O	E
E	Q	R	C	Q	P	T	T	U	O	C	K	A	C	Z	G	V	Z
Y	Z	M	O	M	I	T	T	E	N	S	R	D	O	O	U	E	E
J	C	O	L	D	A	O	B	J	G	V	G	U	A	X	I	S	D
W	S	Q	D	M	K	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	T	Y	N	W	L
U	U	S	S	N	O	W	F	A	L	L	P	S	K	A	T	E	W

Winter	Sweater	Blizzard	Freeze
Cold	Skate	Coat	Penguin
New year	Hoodie	Snowfall	Hibernate
Gloves	Blanket	Mittens	Sniffle
Chimney			Frosty

Winter Word Scramble
Unscramble the letters to make words associated with Winter

THO HOCCLAOTE

NWSOANM

ODLC

ATJCEK

RSACF

ETWESAR

TMNEITS

FTISRD

LDES

BWOOOSSNT

IDERENRE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Genesis 1 Genesis 2 Luke 1	2 Genesis 3 Genesis 4 Genesis 5 John 1:1-14	3 Genesis 6 Genesis 7 Genesis 8 Matthew 1	4 Genesis 9 Genesis 10 Genesis 11 Luke 2:1-38	5 Job 1 Job 2 Job 3 Matthew 2	6 Job 4 Job 5
7 Job 6 Job 7	8 Job 8 Job 9 Luke 2:39-52	9 Job 10 Job 11 Job 12 Matthew 3	10 Job 13 Job 14 Job 15 Mark 1	11 Job 16 Job 17 Job 18 Luke 3	12 Job 19 Job 20 Job 21 Matthew 4	13 Job 22 Job 23
14 Job 24 Job 25	15 Job 26 Job 27 Luke 4	16 Job 28 Job 29 Job 30 Luke 5	17 Job 31 Job 32 Job 33 John 1:15-51	18 Job 34 Job 35 Job 36 John 2	19 Job 37 Job 38 Job 39 John 3	20 Job 40 Job 41
21 Job 42 Genesis 12	22 Genesis 13 Genesis 14 John 4	23 Genesis 15 Genesis 16 Genesis 17 Mark 2	24 Genesis 18 Genesis 19 Genesis 20 John 5	25 Genesis 21 Genesis 22 Genesis 23 Matthew 12:1-21	26 Genesis 24 Genesis 25 Genesis 26 Mark 3	27 Genesis 27 Genesis 28
28 Genesis 29 Genesis 30	29 Genesis 31 Genesis 32 Luke 6	30 Genesis 33 Genesis 34 Genesis 35 Matthew 5	31 Genesis 36 Genesis 37 Genesis 38 Matthew 6			