



Let your light
so shine before
men, that they
may see your
good works,
and glorify your
Father
which is in
heaven.

Matthew 5:16

“Of Soul and Light”

If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person.

If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house.

If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation.

If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

Chinese proverb

As we move into 2021, we gratefully begin looking forward to the upcoming year and the new possibilities that it presents. Though this is traditionally a time of setting new resolutions for the future, I believe that it should be informed by honest reflections about the year that has passed. Understandably, I imagine that “looking back” is something that not too many people are clamoring to do.

There is no doubt that 2020 was filled with many challenges that did not expire when the calendars on our walls were replaced. The problems that we faced did not magically dissipate when the fireworks burst within the new January sky, or when the first kisses were kissed, or when the illumined ball began its *countdowned*-drop in Times Square, or when millions of people, some holding toasting flutes filled with bubbly, joyfully hummed through the melody of the song, “Auld Lang Syne” (humming because how many of us truly know all the lyrics of that timeless song inspired by a Scots-language poem).



Our time of resolution-making need not be accompanied by a full remembrance of “old long since” or the olden days of the past. In fact, as I thought about the experience of Christmas just last week, I was filled with all the needed hope to begin imagining something new for 2021. During the Christmas season, the Evans’ household was brimming with cheer, and not just because we were wearing matching elf pajamas. We had a wonderful time connecting with family, and it truly felt like we were wrapped in a comforter-like cocoon of love. We laughed while drinking hot chocolate, eating stovetop-popped popcorn, and enjoying holiday themed films.



Of note, we watched a Disney-Pixar movie entitled, *Soul*. Though funny and witty, it beautifully explored the big questions of meaning and purpose while alluding to the “spark” within our soul that makes living come “alive.” In between sips of hot chocolate, and under the glow of the animated movie, I thought of the first line of the ancient Chinese Proverb that was quoted in the beginning, “If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person.”

The juxtaposition of the words “light” and “soul” is also meaningful because we are moving into the season of *epiphany*. Epiphany means *appearance* or *manifestation*. The UMC Discipleship resources rightly likens the popular usage of *epiphany* to words such as *eureka* or *aha!* It is akin to turning on a light bulb to reveal something that was once hidden from view. It is a season of welcoming in the light especially after a time of darkness.

So, what does this all mean? I guess, in this season of epiphany, it is my prayer that we will continue to do the soul-work of appreciating the profound gift of being “alive” in this moment, despite the difficulties that may continue to arise. Further, whatever it is that we may feel invited to “live-into” more deeply as our resolutions, I pray that it will be a light to those around us, especially as we celebrate the *Light* of Christ shining to all the world; a *Light* that looks and feels like beauty, harmony, order, and peace.

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Pastor's Message Continued from page 1

In the meantime, as we acknowledge that we are a people of "light and soul," I guess it doesn't hurt to sip some hot chocolate with the family every now and again, or better yet, "tak a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne."

**Blessings,
Pastor Mahsea Evans**



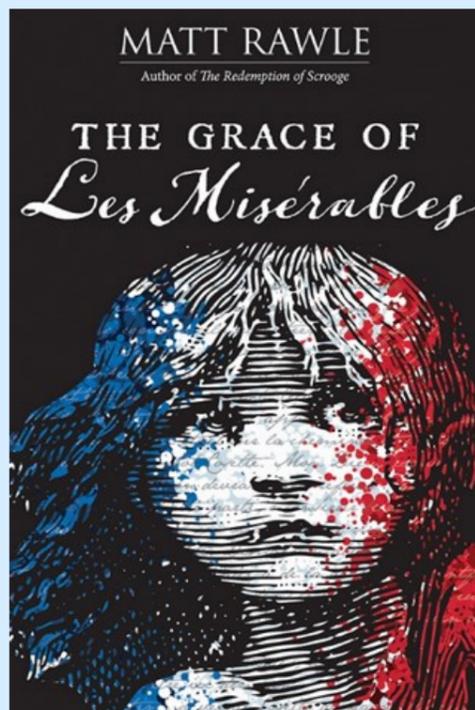
Greetings First United Methodist Church of Roseville!

I hope you had a pleasant Holiday Season. Christmas in the Evans home was extra special, simply because we basked in the luxury of time. With the gentle nudge of Mahsea, we took the time to slow down and truly savor all the precious moments of the day...tasting the flavors of our scrumptious breakfast, guessing what is inside the gifts before meticulously unwrapping, allowing each person time and attention to open their presents, reading aloud the various cards and text messages received, and with our matching elf pajamas, we stood in our doorway to wish our neighbors a Merry Christmas.

We found ourselves filled with joy and gratitude for every minute of that day, and every day in the year of 2020 that led up to that moment. Although 2020 has been difficult at times, there have been valuable gifts sprinkled all along the way. As we head into 2021, I encourage you to reflect upon the beautiful lessons and gifts you have learned and bring them with you to make this new year one of the best ones yet.

Wishing you a happy, safe, and joyous new year!

Dr. Kawami Evans



This Lent Ponder the Themes of Justice, Poverty, Freedom, and Love.

Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a truly epic. Most of you already know the power in the story from the many adaptations, on stage and screen. In this six-week Lenten study *The Grace of Les Misérables*, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo's story. Rawle brings us to the intersection of Church and Pop Culture by drawing parallels between the iconic story and musical and our Christian calling, inspiring us to both understand our faith and live it out in the world.

Join me, Chris Handley, in this Lenten study beginning in February via Zoom (dates to be announced**). Please notify me if you are interested at chandley1968@gmail.com by January 20th. Books can be provided or you can order from Cokesbury or Amazon – also available on Kindle. I look forward to hearing from you!!

**Dates & times influenced by those desiring the class, also afternoon classes could be available.

Happy New Year, First Church Family!

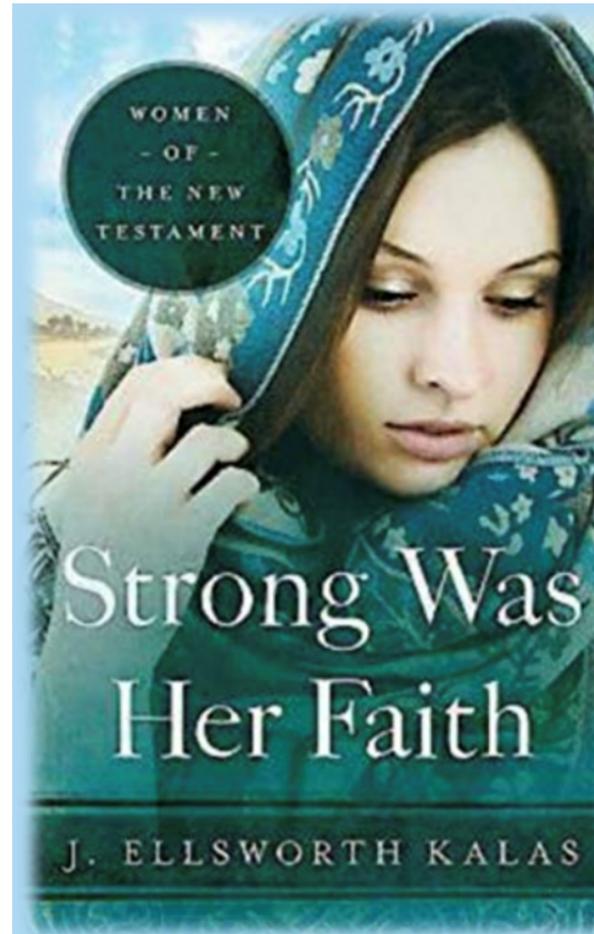
I like to celebrate dates; birthdays, anniversaries, holidays. But there's something special about a new year. It feels like an opportunity for renewal of Spirit. Whether we call it "making resolutions" or "setting goals", or "taking inventory", or maybe even a "wish list", lets do it with intention and faith.

Speaking of faith, I will be offering a book study early this year. I enjoyed the stories so much that afterwards I thought how fun it would be to actually do the study with other people. The author has devoted a chapter (short chapters) to each of 12 women from the New Testament and has included a study guide. I'm still working out the details, though in-person meetings seem doubtful at this time.

I would advise those of you who are having technical difficulties to get that straightened out. On-line meetings are not going away, you know..... Seeing you on the screen is better than not seeing you at all!

I know last year was rough, and it still is, and probably will be for a while yet. But we can get through anything, as long as we're together with God. And can I just say, "Yeah Jesus!"

Peace,
Kathleen



Circuit Riders Women's Ministry

The Circuit Riders Team continues to visit some of our parishioners to offer Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Now that most of the Circuit Riders are participating in the Woodbridge Walk every Sunday at 9, we then gather our materials and head out on our routes directly after the walk. For our December visits, Jan Sechrist put together special gift bags which included needlepoint crosses made by Hazel Nofz, small gifts, treats, and an inspirational message. In addition, Carolyn Hemig baked muffins which were distributed also. Several of our members have moved out of the area, so a few communion kits and small gifts were sent to them. Leo Wierbick and Ruth Ann Baker have also helped with this ministry. Thank you all for your participation.

In January, First UMC will be celebrating Holy Communion on the 2nd Sunday of the month, January 10th. The Circuit Riders will do our visitations on the 10th, as well.

Cathie Wierbick, Jan Sechrist, Kathleen Mirtoni, Barbara Schwartz

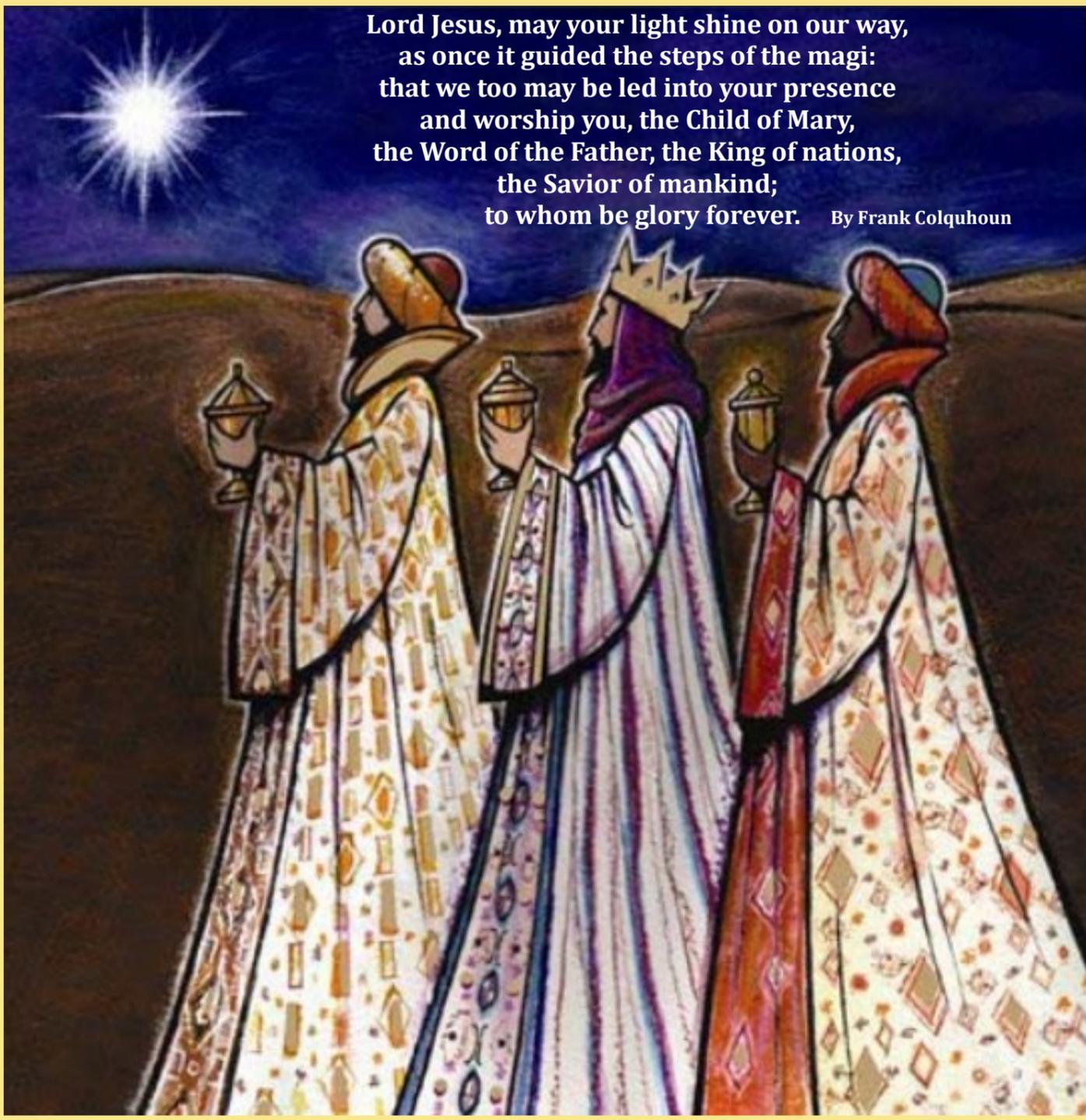


"The single biggest thing I learned was from an indigenous elder of Cherokee descent, Stan Rushworth, who reminded me of the difference between a Western settler mindset of "I have rights" and an indigenous mindset of "I have obligations". Instead of thinking that I am born with rights, I choose to think that I am born with obligations to serve past, present and future generations, and the planet herself."

Contributed by Cathie Wierbick

Epiphany

Lord Jesus, may your light shine on our way,
as once it guided the steps of the magi:
that we too may be led into your presence
and worship you, the Child of Mary,
the Word of the Father, the King of nations,
the Savior of mankind;
to whom be glory forever. By Frank Colquhoun



Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your
pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

John Wesley



Agape Men's Group

Men, if you are tired of staying at home, please join us for our Agape Group gatherings on January 7 and 21, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. under the canopy to Backman Hall. We follow social distancing guidelines and wear masks, which help one to appear younger. For our first meeting of the year, we will be disassembling the Christmas tree that graced the playground during the Advent season. Since people rarely make New Year's resolutions nowadays because they typically are never completed, our burning question of the day will be: What are your personal goals for 2021?

Any questions please contact any of the Agape Team members: Dave Sechrist, Don Harris, Cliff Williams or Dennis Bull (630-781-6110). Hope to see you!

The Lens

Life is like a camera. Just FOCUS on what is important. CAPTURE the good times. DEVELOP from the negatives. If things don't work out, Take another shot!



Contributed by Dennis Bull

PRAYER



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

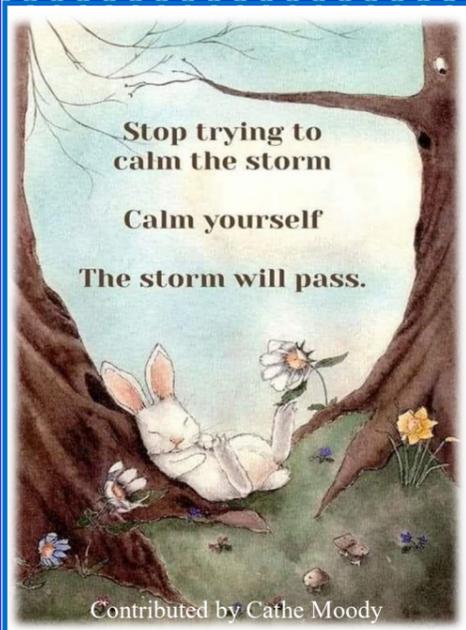
For Bereavement:

Kevin Hubert & family

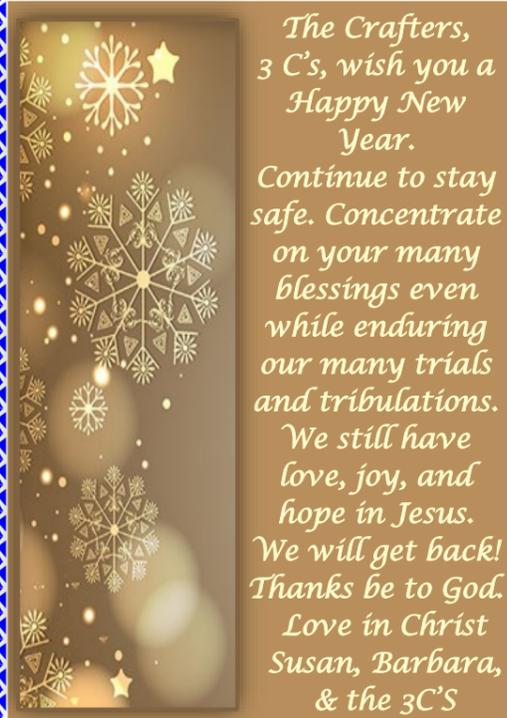
For Healing and Comfort:

Alisha & her aunt
Michelle
Vilu Aguilar
Bill Jamison
Liz Padilla
Navy
Nadine Phillips
Vicki Ketner
Glen Ketner
Jaxon

Please submit prayer requests to: prayers@firstumcroseville.org



Contributed by Cathe Moody



The Crafters, 3 C's, wish you a Happy New Year.

Continue to stay safe. Concentrate on your many blessings even while enduring our many trials and tribulations. We still have love, joy, and hope in Jesus. We will get back! Thanks be to God. Love in Christ Susan, Barbara, & the 3C'S

Big Hearts

Give us big hearts, dear God; big enough to embrace all our sisters and brothers especially those in trouble, whether of their own making or because of wrongs done to them.

Give us big hearts, dear God; big enough to acknowledge our own weakness before pointing the finger at others; big enough to be humble when blessed with your good gifts denied to so many.

Give us big hearts, dear God; to reach out again and again to those who cannot help themselves until hope is restored to them and we, thorn-beaten and bloodied allow our loving to become more like yours.

Kathy Keay, Laughter, Silence & Shouting - An Anthology of Women's Prayers

Woodbridge Walk

Join us each Sunday morning at 9 am at Woodbridge School, 515 Niles Avenue, Roseville for a "walk and talk" around the school. Or if you prefer there's a bench to "sit and visit". Of course masks and social distancing are the way we stay safe. Remember if it's raining the walk is canceled for that day. Hope to see you Sunday!

First Church Roseville Email Addresses

Please make note of these email addresses for First UMC Roseville

Church Email: firstumc@firstumcroseville.org
Prayer Requests: prayers@firstumcroseville.org
Chimes Article Submissions: chimes@firstumcroseville.org
Pastor: mevans@firstumcroseville.org
Certified Lay Leader: kmirtoni@firstumcroseville.org
Administrative Assistant: cwithrow@firstumcroseville.org
Office Volunteer: nbray@firstumcroseville.org



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2ND DONNESE BREWER
- 5TH CAROL TREXLER
- 7TH JACK PRESTWICH
- 10TH MADISON KUFFOUR
- 15TH JOHN HANDLEY
- 16TH SANDY WILLIAMS
- 18TH ISAAC KUFFOUR
ISAAC KUFFOUR JR.
ISALAH KUFFOUR
STEPHANIE TRILLO
BARBARA SCHWARTZ
- 22ND RUTH ANN BAKER
- 24TH CLIFF WILLIAMS
ELMA MORRIS
- 25TH SHEREL HARRIS
KIM BARTO
PAUL WOICICKI
- 27TH PAT BUNCE
- 31ST AL NEWTON



What a Difference a Year Makes!



Isaac Jr. Isaiah Kuffour



Isaiah Kuffour Isaac Jr.

The Twins Are 1 Year Old. Happy Birthday!

November Noses, Dollars, and Cents

Basic Monthly Statistics:

Income Nov. 2020: \$10,645.40
Expenses Nov. 2020: \$11,783.51
Net Income Nov. 2020: **\$1,138.11**
Transfer from PPP: \$0.00
New Total **\$1,138.11**

Basic Yearly Statistics 2020

YTD Income: \$124,938.10
YTD Expense: \$150,310.43
Net Income: **\$25,372.33**
Transfer from PPP: **\$25,180.00**
New Total: **\$192.33**

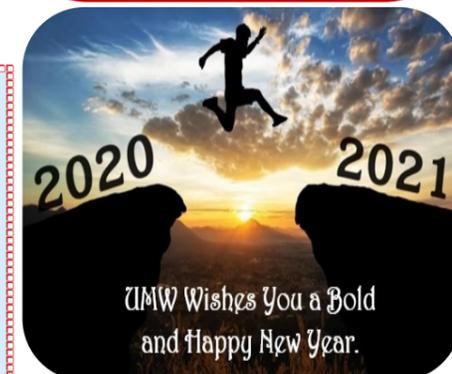
Thank you for your continued financial support. It is very much appreciated.

September Worship Online Views
Total: 536 Average: 107
*Numbers for 5 Sundays

The Monday Feeding Program for the homeless served 393 meals in November.

FIRST CHURCH ROSEVILLE TEAM LEADERS

Pastor—Mahsea Evans
Lay Leader—Sandy Williams
Certified Lay Minister & Church Council Chair— Kathleen Mirtoni
Treasurer—Chris Handley
Financial Secretary—Donna Hall
Finance Team Chairperson— Dave Sechrist
Trustees President— Don Harris
Staff Parish Chair— Dennis Bull
Mission Outreach— Kathleen Mirtoni
Memorial— Barbara Schwartz
Worship Team Leader— Nancy Bray
Congregational Care— Gail Provine
Music Director— John Handley
Communications— Kristi Kinzel
Lay Leadership Training— Kristi Kinzel



UMCW Wishes You a Bold and Happy New Year.



Recycle December 12th, \$79.00
Grand total of \$640.87 for 2020
Please keep saving your recyclables to bring in on Saturday January 9, 2021 in the parking lot between 9-11am. Thanks to all! It all helps our church pay our bills.
Don Harris, Trustee President

