



DEEP ROOTS VISIBLE GRACE

December 2020

A newsletter for the families and friends of New Market UMC.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas!

I am sitting here watching the snow melt and contemplating what a gift to have snow during the Christmas Season. As we start to wrap up the year 2020 our impulse might be to wrap it and throw it right into the trash. But I think if we all can do some reflection; we will find that there were bright spots during this year along with darkness.



As we prepare to go to the manger and gaze with wonder on what God did for us on a stary Christmas night, let us remember that even in these tough times the church was very present. Our youth prepared meals for the Religious Coalition, members provided Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for three families, collected canned goods to donate to the Urbana Food Bank, collected for Christmas shoe boxes, and collected pet items to donate to the Frederick animal shelter. Our live Nativity went virtual in the town of New Market and we provided a family from NMMS with Christmas presents. We are getting ready to launch our first longest night service, and

host three in person Christmas Eve services, one with a bonfire. I am so excited and grateful for all of you and your encouragement, wisdom, and participation. We truly are the hometown church of New Market. None of us know what 2021 holds for us but we can be certain that we serve a risen Lord, and this Lord has promised us that he would never leave us or forsake us, and that brings me a great deal of comfort. My prayer for you and yours is that that promise can also bring comfort to you. Have a Merry Christmas.

⁴⁶And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. Luke 1: 46-49



Longest Night and Star of Bethlehem Service- Dec 21 @5:30

This service will start on the patio to witness the alignment of Saturn and Jupiter then will move inside for prayer stations. Dress warm.

Christmas Eve Services

11:00 a.m. 20 spaces left, go to our website to register.

5:00 p.m. This service is at capacity and is closed to new registrations.

This service will be broadcast on the New Market Facebook page.

6:30 p.m. Christmas carol music starts for the bonfire service.

7:00 p.m. Bonfire Service behind the church. Dress warm.

FINANCE TEAM NEWS

Loan Payoff

As directed by the Council at their October 22 meeting, the church parsonage/schoolhouse loan was paid off on November 1. The pay-off amount of \$32,603.24 was made with funds in the checking account. The Council further directed that all funds from parsonage rent, as well as the Thanksgiving offering, go toward replenishing the cash flow in the checking account.

Thanksgiving Offering Debt Reduction Initiative

Contributions received from November 1-December 13 total \$6,250.

Since 2017, forty individuals/families have made donations for debt reduction; many have made multiple donations. It's not too late to make a donation. As always, donations can be made by dropping it in the offering plate, mail it, drop it off to the church office, or online.

NMUMC By the Numbers for October and November are:

	October	November
Deposit Totals	\$15,195.00	\$30,645.00
Regular Offering	10,610.00	14,304.00
Building Fund	100.00	100.00
Cup of JOE Ministry	100.00	
Debt Reduction	2,150.00	5,950.00
Hope 4 Kids	25.00	25.00
Memorial Fund	100.00	
Parsonage Rent	2,100.00	4,200.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		3,050.00
Poinsettias	10.00	310.00
Pre School Rent		2,700.00
Upper Room		6.00
Online Giving Totals	\$1,407.97	\$1,328.04
Regular Offering	1,385.00	1,304.20
Online Fees	22.97	23.84

Updates

- The bookkeeping service is now handling the tasks previously performed by our church treasurer, Thersa Dowling. Please join me in thanking Thersa for her 7+ years of service.
- Our PPP Forgiveness Application was submitted on December 14.

We are thankful for your financial support and encourage your continued giving.

May you have a blessed holiday season and a new year filled with happiness and good health. Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve Offering to benefit Crossroads Freedom Center

This year's Christmas Eve offerings will go to Crossroads Freedom Center. You can place your checks or cash in the collection plate if you are attending services or mail them to our post office box and mark Christmas Eve Offering in the memo.

General News Updates at NMUMC

The 9:30 a.m. service will continue on Zoom and will return to the parking lot sometime in March.

The Home Safe team will continue to monitor indoor services to ensure compliance and safety. An air scrubber that removes pathogens from the air has been installed in the sanctuary along with two extra speakers to increase the sound quality.

Pastor Scott is encouraging all teams and ministries to take January off as a Sabbath month. This includes the trustees, SPRC, finance, council, zoom children ministry, zoom Bible studies, confirmation, and LIFT. If there is an urgent need to meet the chair will call a meeting.

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