



December 2023 and January 2024

Kewadin Community Church Newsletter

A Note from Pastor Howard—

I am writing this on Thanksgiving Day morning, looking forward to a nice dinner with my Aunt Dorothy—just the two of us this year. I would also enjoy a Lions victory over the Green Bay Packers later today. We will see. (The Lions lost!) They have their best team in about sixty years so there is hope for some play-off wins.

After reviewing the last few newsletters for December and January, I can say after the craziness of the last few years this has been the most normal year we have had recently. Thankfully we have been able to have services each Sunday—mask optional. We have also made major changes in our appearance—most of them outside with the lawn and landscaping. We continue to try to enhance our curb appeal. We have been blessed that many members of our church family have pitched in and helped. We added a community dinner this year after having had only one in the past three years. We had our traditional steak dinner with a couple of changes and added a Mexican dinner which was a huge success. In my many years of pastoring that was the first time a church totally ran out of food. Our women's group has decided to make the dinner an annual feature; we can all look forward to it next June!

As you all know by the end of this year, we will be an independent church. This is the second major change in the last few years, the other being the physical changes we have made. Our independence was made possible by a window of opportunity the United Methodist Conference gave churches across the nation to become independent if they followed the required procedures for leaving. As we prayed about it and continued to learn more about the requirements the decision was made by the membership to move forward. Through lots of work on the part of many of our church family we have been able to do it.

Due to the fact that we are leaving the United Methodist Conference, it became important to me to pursue ordination, affirming my calling to ministering. Penny Kaiser has also been ordained for several years but we felt a service should include both of us to be recognized by the congregation. Penny pastors a small church group on Sunday in Acme but has attended Kewadin for over sixty years and I have been the pastor here for almost nine years. We wanted our church family to be involved in a formal recognition of becoming ordained. So, on November 26th, Penny and I were ordained with Mike Paradis, our board chairman, conducting the service. Our snowbirds attended via Zoom. The bottom line is that this has been another amazing year! We are all looking forward to an even more exciting 2024 with God's help!

Christmas is the celebration of the gift of the Christ child and is God's greatest expression of his love for all people. During the Christmas season there are many opportunities to share Christ with others. The Salvation Army, the Giving Tree ministries and Toys for Tots are but a few. At KCC we are again celebrating Advent, with the lighting of a new Advent candle. Each Sunday we move closer to the Christmas Eve service, a highlight of the Christian year, when we light the Christ candle and close by singing Silent Night by candlelight. It is always a joy-filled hour of celebration and thanks and all are invited. Please make it a part of your family's Christmas. The service is at 7 p. m.

My tradition has been to invite you to take advantage of your opportunities to spend time with the Lord in prayer and scripture reading. Time spent with the Lord is never wasted. Please read the Christmas stories in Matthew 1:18-2:23 and Luke 2:1-20. (if possible as a family) As your church family we look forward to a joyous holiday season and Happy New Year for you and yours. God Bless you all!

Pastor Howard

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

December Birthdays

2 Karen Jahr
7 Lon Bargy
8 Jim Misico
9 Jeanne Newberry
13 Larry White
14 Bill Lewis
19 Natalie Boals
24 Penny Kaiser
27 Ann Bargy
28 Bill Kaiser



January Birthdays

3 Melanie White
4 Howard Harvey
8 Trisha Donaldson
8 Lori Merchant
20 Donna Paradis
25 James Constantine
26 Jane Deaver



“It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.” Mother Teresa



BLACK KETTLE OFFERINGS



Black Kettle Mission for December: The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. Thank you for your kind generosity! I'm sure some of you will also be "Bell-Ringers" as well!

Black Kettle Mission for January: Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (www.nmcaa.net) This organization helps with many functions—emergency home repairs to low-income homeowners, homeless, Homebuyer Education Workshops, and tax preparation. The Financial Management Services (FMS) staff offers Financial Fitness workshops and individual counseling which help participants learn how to manage their personal finances (Budgeting). Along with budget counseling, the FMS staff also counsels individuals with bankruptcy and debt and **heating assistance. Thank you!**



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>*more info in newsletter</i>						1 <i>Nat'l Fritters Day!</i>
3 10am Worship Svc/ Communion 1st Sunday of Advent	4 Funeral luncheon for Nancy Merchant	5	6 9:30am Bible Study	7 	8	9
10 10am Worship Svc 2nd Sunday of Advent	11	12 *1pm Women's Society Meeting	13 9:30am Bible Study	14	15	16
17 10am Worship Svc 3rd Sunday of Advent	18 Nat'l Bake Cookies Day!	19	20 9:30am Bible Study	21 Winter Solstice	22	23
24 10am Worship Svc 4th Sunday of Advent 7pm Christmas Eve Svc.			27 9:30am Bible Study	28	29	30 <i>Nat'l Bacon Day!</i>
31 10am Worship Svc 						

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 		2	3 9:30am Bible Study	4 Nat'l Spaghetti Day	5	6
7 10am Worship Svc/ Communion	8	9	10 9:30am Bible Study	11	12 Nat'l Hot Tea Day 	13
14 10am Worship Svc	15 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance	16	17 9:30am Bible Study	18 Nat'l Winnie the Pooh Day 	19	20
21 10am Worship Svc	22	23 Nat'l Pie Day 	24 9:30am Bible Study	25	26 Nat'l Spouse's Day 	27
28 10am Worship Svc	29	30	31 9:30am Bible Study			



Women's Society News

The December meeting will be held December 12th, 1 p.m. at the church.

We will be packing boxes for the shut ins. We will need cookies so any cookie donations would be greatly appreciated, even if you aren't able to attend the meeting. Fruit will be purchased.

We will be doing a \$10 gift exchange along with singing Christmas carols and Penny's accompaniment on the accordion.

All women are welcome! We hope you can join us!

Our next meeting will be held in April.

A Christmas Day—

Our friend, our King, is our everything

We love you Lord, of thee we sing

We honor you on Christmas Day

A giving time, a time to pray.

By Sylvia Bettley

A New Beginning—

January, so cold, so clear

The stars seem so very near

A welcoming smile, not shedding a tear,

Being thankful we're all still here—

A new beginning, a brand new year!

By Sylvia Bettley



PLEASE SAVE YOUR VILLAGE MARKET
COMMUNITY CASH RECEIPTS!
GAS RECEIPTS, ALSO!

These are saved up over the school year and the Village Market gives a percentage of the receipts to a non-profit of our choice!

We at Kewadin Community Church donate ours to the
Elk Rapids Community Cupboard Food Pantry!

THANK YOU!

BOTTLES AND CANS!!!!

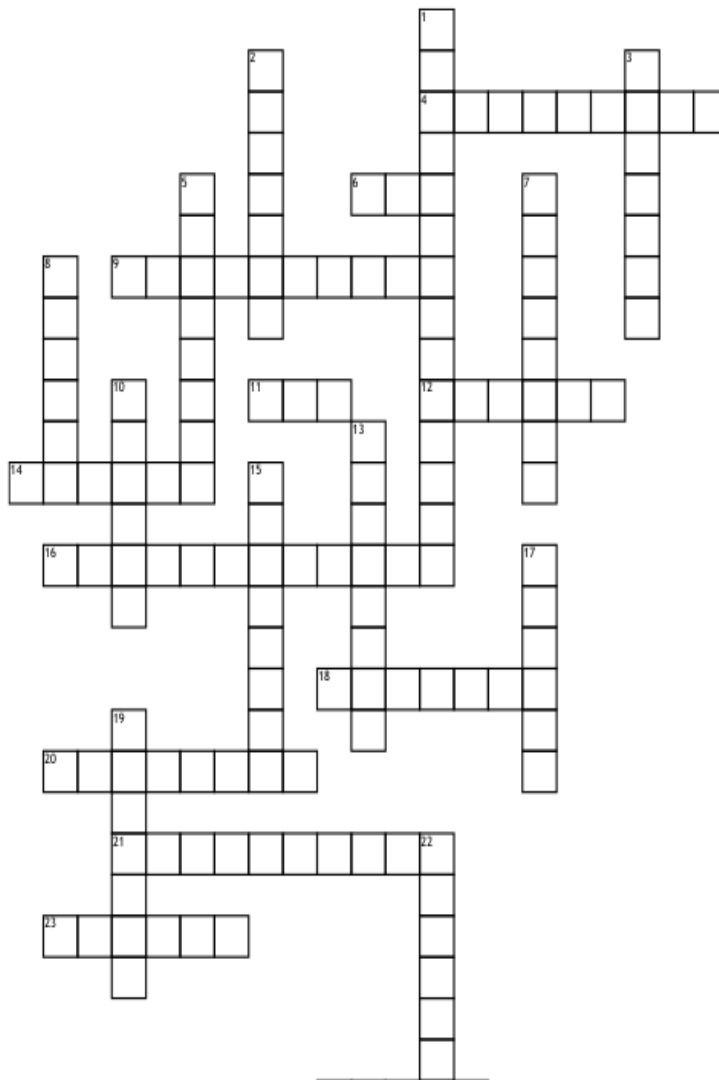
Please SAVE your
returnable bottles/cans and
bring to church!

The deposit money goes
toward Black Kettle
missions!

Thank you!



Winter Wonderland Crossword



Across

4. The northernmost point on the Earth
6. Popular holiday dessert
9. Jolly Old St. Nick
11. A decoration made from twisted ribbon
12. Winter Sport
14. A circular band of foliage
16. Popular Holiday Drink
18. A human shape made of packed snow
20. A group of people performing joyful Christmas or religious songs

21. Blowing, white clusters of frozen ice crystals

23. The frame around a fireplace opening
24. Santa's fourth Reindeer

Down

1. The shortest day of the year
2. A celebration honoring African heritage that begins on December 26th
3. Baked treats in varieties such as sugar and chocolate chip

5. The Jewish holiday also known as the Festival of Lights

7. Creche, the depiction of the birth of Jesus

8. Final season of the year

10. Mistletoe, e.g.

13. A decorative bauble

15. 12th month of the year

17. Frothy, creamy holiday beverage sometimes served with rum

19. A gift, often wrapped in decorative papers

22. Charles Dickens' miser

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