



Dear Friends,

Well...2020 is in the books. It would be an understatement to say it was a loooooong year. For some, 2020 ranks as one of, if not *the*, most difficult years they've experienced. For others, 2020 wasn't as difficult as it was for others. Certainly, it was a different kind of year. As we head into 2021, I'd like to take a few moments to look back and reflect, and then look forward to the future.

I know....some don't want to look back at all; they'd rather toss 2020 into the trash can and leave it there. Believe it or not, though, some good things happened in 2020 that deserve to be mentioned and celebrated. So...let's celebrate three things in particular:

**1. Massive leadership reorganization** — Going into 2020, our main focus and emphasis was a reorganization of our leadership structure, for the purpose of aligning ourselves better for ministry. We accomplished this! We established an Executive Leadership team that would set our goals and the things to prioritize, and ministry teams that would execute our mission of connecting people to Jesus Christ. From there, we invited our congregation to consider being a part of a ministry team and gave the opportunity for that to happen. You might remember waaaaay back in February, we had a congregational meeting to allow our ministry team chairpersons to speak — we ended that day with **30** people committing to being on a ministry team. It was an energizing and exciting day! Then Covid hit....and the rest is history. But we're not giving up!

**2. Expanded Digital Presence** — With the directives to cease in-person worship, we had to find ways to continue to connect people to Jesus. Prior to March, we were broadcasting via Facebook Live our message every Sunday. It was decided we needed to offer more than just a message, but to include music as well. So we procured the necessary licensing and began to share an entire worship service. I was, and still am, floored and the response to that. A rough calculation shows that our worship videos have had just shy of (ready for this?) **12,000** views. Now...this doesn't

necessarily mean 12,000 unique viewers (I'm guessing that number is much lower), but it does represent—in my mind—12,000 different moments for there to be a connection with God. This has happened because people have “shared” our broadcast and invited people to tune in — I fully believe there are some folks who have joined us who never had worshipped before. These numbers also don't take into account the Evening Prayer services done in the spring and early summer. I am forever grateful to Wendy McClenning, Jill Roegge, Brian DeLoche, Brittney Taylor, and Andrea Wells for being the team that has moved this engine forward. And thanks to all who have shared the broadcast or invited others to worship with them. In so many ways...we have made the gospel available to so many and only God knows the impact that has made.

**3. Spiritual Growth** — Throughout this year, I have witnessed a spiritual awakening beginning to take root in our congregation. I want to highlight two things in particular. Number 1. Is the 15 people who gathered every Wednesday in the fall to explore and unpack the Supernatural power of God through the Holy Spirit. In these times, the Spirit challenged us, provoked us, and gave us cause to think on and even wrestle with God's working in the world. Number 2. Is the response to the invitation given to read through the entire Bible in one year (with caveat to take it slower if needed). In the last month, I have had dozens of messages of folks who were committed to reading and had questions, or were sharing new insights that had been revealed. We have folks reading with us who aren't a part of our church, but because someone from our church shared a message or offered an invitation, they jumped in. I celebrate and rejoice what God has done and is continuing to do in our midst! I also remained firmly convinced that nothing moves us closer to the heart of God than engaging Scripture in a disciplined and consistent way. If you're reading this and you haven't jumped on board...it's not too late! Here's my invitation — dive in! Fix a time and start! If you need a copy of the reading plan, please let me know. I'll hand-deliver it if needed. God is up to something!

*Continue to read Jarrett's Jottings on another page...*

The Mustard Seed

# January

**Ministry Team:**

Pastor ~ Jarrett Wells

Office Manager ~

Maria Hymes

Pianist/Organist ~

Jill Roegge

Choral Director ~

Tim Bartholomew

Financial Secretary ~

Lynne O'Hara

Treasurer ~

Susan Treadway

Youth Director ~

Andrea Wells

Custodian ~

Tonya White

**Sunday Services:**

Worship Service ~

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School ~

10:30 a.m.

Phone ~ 217-323-1257

E-mail ~

beardsumc@sbcglobal.net

Website ~

beardstownfumc.com

"Like" us on Facebook ~

Beardstown First UMC

## Birthdays

- 2 Evelyn Lawson  
Tara Lael Winters
- 4 Wayne Kight
- 6 Larry Cline  
Doug Blakeman
- 7 Evan Wells
- 8 Chris Taylor
- 9 Wilma Penwarden
- 10 Lorie Chrzanowski
- 11 Joey Luna
- 12 Erica Vermillion
- 13 Nicholas Wells  
Susan Lamb  
Tom Bell
- 14 Kaden Bartholomew  
Christine Hobrock  
Joe Drinkwater
- 15 Kay Chambers  
Jim Ritter
- 16 Jeff Starkey  
Kate Reichert Blackburn
- 17 Jim French
- 18 Linda Dugger  
Kathy Riley
- 19 Jennifer Stambaugh

- 20 Kellie Stocker  
Kristy Icenogle  
Amy Sommers
- 21 Tom Taylor  
Tracy Patterson  
Georgette Mayingini Lufutu
- 23 Jackie Bresnahan
- 24 Gloria Coultas  
Kody Burgett  
Kathryn Lea Logsdon  
Khloe Wells  
Emma Trone  
Sarah Logsdon
- 25 Peggy Kinsey
- 28 Bill Logsdon  
Duane Sommerville
- 29 Curt Spencer
- 30 Wade Thomas Robertson
- 31 Carlos Treadway, Jr.  
Jerry Peacock

## Anniversaries

- 28 Erwin & Shirley Krumwiede
- 30 Dale & Susan Lamb
- 31 Evaristo & Maricela Rodriguez



## Christian Love In Action

Currently C.L.I.A. is in need of: **Cereal**. You can bring your donated items to the church again. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CLIA hours are: Tuesdays from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Thank you for donations. If you would like to contribute but don't have time / remember to shop, you can give money to Lynne O'Hara and she will pick up the items.

## Cass County Food Pantry

The Cass County Food Pantry is another place that helps Cass County residents in need of food. To help with their mission, they are asking churches for donations for the month of **JANUARY: Soups, Crackers, Ravioli, Spaghetti-O's, Beef-A-Roni.**

They are always in need of: **Peanut Butter, Jelly, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Cereal, or Non-Perishable Food Items.** They have a walk in cooler or freezer to hold perishable items, and are able to take fresh produce items.

*Jarrett's Jotting's continued...*

Now...let's jump ahead to the future a bit. It's still impossible to predict what's going to happen or when things might start to return to some semblance of normalcy, but all signs seemingly point to a better 2021. There are things in store for this year that have me hopeful for what God might do.

**1. Ministry Teams** — In the very near future, those ministry teams that were a cause for celebration in 2020 are going to get off the ground and start planning and working on the ministry entrusted to them. Just to remind you — we have three ministry teams, each with an important function: Worship and Discipleship, charged with helping us connect with God; Nurture and Hospitality, charged with helping us connect with one another; and Mission and Outreach, charged with helping us connect to our community and helping the community connect to God through the church. Prior to Covid, we had some lofty goals; those goals still exist, and as we head into 2021, we're going to be pursuing them. If you don't remember which team you are on, or you would like to be a part of a team, please let me know!

**2. Greater Digital Presence** — I shared earlier what we've been able to do so far, digitally. It's been wonderful, but it hasn't connected with everyone. There are those who do not use Facebook, thus haven't been able to be a part of the online worship experiences. We have addressed that and, beginning with the

first Sunday in January, our worship videos will now also be uploaded to YouTube. You can find us on YouTube at "Beardstown First UMC". If you have an account with YouTube, you will be able to subscribe to our page and receive notifications when a video is posted. Our YouTube uploads for the time being will not be live, but will be recordings of the live broadcast. Worship videos will usually be uploaded within an hour of the conclusion of worship. We hope this will provide a connection point with God to those who are not on Facebook and cannot join us there.

I was recently hit with the realization that the beginning of 2021 will mark the beginning of my fifth year as pastor of First UMC. I have expressed in other places and times how incredibly blessed and honored my family and I are to be in Beardstown and a part of this congregation. I echo all that again now! It has been a wonderful four years for us; I pray it has been for you as well. As we look to the future, I remain firmly convinced that our best, and most fruitful, days remain in front of us. I am honored to be your pastor and I am brimming with excitement at what God might do in each of us, in our congregation, and in our community. To God alone be all glory, now and forever!

*Grace and Peace,*

*Pastor Jarrett*



## *First UMC Update*

Over the last few weeks, we have received several inquiries concerning returning to worship and activities in the church. At this time, all things remain suspended until further notice. Our leadership team will be getting together at the beginning of January to decide the best course of action for our church. That decision, and all the implications of it, will be communicated as soon as possible. On a personal note — let me assure that I understand your concerns, even frustrations. These days have not been easy on anyone, and we all long to return to what is familiar and what seems "good and right". We WILL get there. Thank you for your patience, your understanding, and your faithfulness to God and to the church. I love you all!

## *2020 Giving Statements*

With the beginning of the new year also comes income tax season (stop jumping and down!) With recent changes to tax codes, many are no longer able to deduct charitable giving. With that in mind, Giving Statements for 2020 will not be mailed, as in past years. They will, however, still be available upon request. If you desire a record of giving for 2020, please inform the church office or Lynne O'Hara.

On the subject of giving...THANK YOU for your continued faithfulness to support the work of the church. In these days of uncertainty and absence from in-person worship, it would be so easy to simply not give, yet you continued to support the church. That support has enabled ministry to continue. I can never thank you enough...but thank you!



# WINTER WORD SEARCH

## FIND THE WORDS!



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

BOOTS  
 COLD  
 FREEZING  
 HAT  
 SCARF  
 SLEDDING  
 SNOWFLAKE



CHRISTMAS  
 DECEMBER  
 FROST  
 ICE  
 SHOVEL  
 SNOWANGEL  
 SNOWMAN

COAT  
 FEBRUARY  
 GLOVES  
 JANUARY  
 SKIING  
 SNOWBALLS  
 WINTER



*Create in me a clean Heart,*

*O God; and renew a right Spirit within me.*

*- Psalm 51:10*



# JANUARY

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Bearstown, IL 62618  
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*The Mustard Seed*

