

The United Methodist Churches of Lakeview & Spooner

# The Good Word

## News for December 2021

### CONTACT US

715-635-3227

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website: [spoonerumc.org](http://spoonerumc.org)

Pastor Ferdinand B. Serra

[fb Serra96@gmail.com](mailto:fb Serra96@gmail.com)

### FOR CHURCH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Spooner UMC is at

312 Elm Street in Spooner

Across from City Hall

Lakeview UMC is at

23980 County Rd X

At the corner of Williams & Cty Rd X,

2 miles south of Hwy 70 and Hertel

Find us on

facebook

## CHURCH MEETINGS

### At Spooner UMC

**Council/Church-** Wed., December 8th at 5pm

**Finance** - Tues., December 7th at 9:00am

**Trustees** - Tues., January 11th at 5:00pm

**Missions-** Mon., January 10th at 6pm

Wed., January 12th at 6pm - Philippines Trip

**SPRC** - Tues., January 4th at 5:30pm

**At Lakeview UMC** - Tues., January 18th at 6pm

*Minutes of Church Council & Trustee meetings are posted at each church. Ask at Office.*



Check out the Spooner UMC website!

[www.spoonerumc.org](http://www.spoonerumc.org)

You can view the calendar, newsletter & any upcoming church events! Spooner UMC can now accept online giving!



“The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.”  
—Zephaniah 3:15b.

“Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the **hopes and fears** of all the years are met in thee tonight.” – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

One hundred and 53 years ago, Phillips Brooks penned the words to a beloved carol – O Little Town of Bethlehem. But the carol uses two words in the same line that seem contradicting to each other: hopes and fears. The question is – how are our hopes and fears “met in thee tonight”?

The context of the hymn provides a hint, and may we remember its message and story when we sing this hymn again. This hymn was penned three years after the most brutal war America had ever known. This happened on our soil. Many families were broken and fragmented into pieces. The whole nation grieved for their lost fathers, brothers, and sons. Moreover, those who came home alive, they were either physically, emotionally and/or psychologically (PTSD) devastated.

Thus, in 1868, this beloved hymn gave Americans some comfort to picture the humble Bethlehem stable as the place where hope and fear meet each other – where hope emerges the ultimate victor.

Today, we still have fears in our hearts, regardless if Christmas is coming or not. There is still fear about the ever-evolving COVID-19 virus. When will this thing end? Or maybe this virus will be a part of our lives – a constant threat to our health and lives year after year. We also have fears that this Christmas will not be as festive as it used to be because there will be an empty chair this year around your table. There are also fears about health and future. Our expectations for what kind of gifts to give or receive. On a macro level, we have fears about our freedom, or the political and economic stability of our country. Yes, despite of these fears and other problems, we need to remember that Christmas was made for such a time like this!

These Advent and Christmastide seasons remind us that we have hope, joy, peace, and love that will never fade away. Our Lord is coming to be with us. This is the promise of the prophecy of Zephaniah, that the Lord is in our midst. Yes, problems and disasters will still come, but we will not walk alone and we will not be afraid because the King of kings is with us and will fight for us.

O little town of Bethlehem, it's true that "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." In a matter of days, we will gather to celebrate the good news of the Messiah's birth. In the words of Paul to the Philippians (4:4-7) - *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. [This is also my prayer to all of you.] And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Amen.

The journey continues,

Pastor Ferdinand B. Serra



## Christmas Eve Services

4:00pm Lakeview UMC

7:00pm Spooner UMC

## Spooner Poinsettia Orders

If you would like to order a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one please call the office (715-635-3227) or email spoonerumc@gmail.com. There will also be a sign up at church on Sunday. The cost will be \$14 each. If you write a check, please place "poinsettia" in the memo area. The order deadline is Sunday, December 5th.



## Community Christmas Baskets

An envelope is available in this newsletter if you would like to mail a donation. Thanks for your support and making a difference in the life of others.

Volunteer Partners of Spooner Health will hold their **31st annual Virtual Love Light Ceremony** on Monday, December 6 at 2:00 pm on [www.Facebook.com/SpoonerHealth](http://www.Facebook.com/SpoonerHealth) Love Light donation forms can be downloaded at [www.SpoonerHealth.com/Events](http://www.SpoonerHealth.com/Events).



## SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING



It's that time again, Thank you again to all of you volunteers who keep making the Red Kettles such a huge success in Washburn County. We will again be ringing at Schmitz Economart and the Dollar Tree. If you have not been contacted and you would like to schedule a time to volunteer, please again call Connie Brabec at 715-635-2319. Thank you, each and every volunteer is indeed a blessing to this community. And to those of you who are unable to volunteer but continue to support the Salvation Army with your contributions, please keep in mind that there would be no reason for the Red Kettles if there were no supporters/contributors. GOD BLESS YOU ALL! Mary Shepherd, Chair of Washburn County Unit of the Salvation Army.



## **Mission News**

### DECEMBER MISSION FOCUS

WCO & Salvation Army

**VIM TRIP TO PHILIPPINES** - A Zoom & In-person orientation meeting will be held January 12, 2022 at 6pm.

**AGENDA:** Update on Philippines COVID situation  
Firm up list of those going  
First Orientation of activities on the trip

Deadlines for passports/immunizations/visa?

Brainstorming for fundraising

Questions? Call Billie at 715-939-0118

### **ALTERNATE GIVING**

It's holiday season! Consider gifts that give back to someone in need.

- The Heifer Project provides animals to families to free them from a life of hunger and poverty. Check out [heifer.org](http://heifer.org) or call 855-848-6437 to get a catalog.
- SERRV International is a nonprofit Fair Trade organization that supports employment opportunities that offer fair wages and sustainable practices. Check out <https://www.serrv.org?a+SUMC> to support their mission.



## **UMW News & Notes**

Our events for November included a Sarah Circle meeting with a devotion and a prayer. Ten participants shared cookies and coffee. Billie LaBumbard told about delivering six toddler quilts from our quilting cupboard to Washburn County Social Services. These will be used for children removed from their home due to domestic violence. December 16 at 11:30am will be Sara Circle Christmas Party at Tracks. Call Evelyn Safeblade with your reservation. We were sorry to have to cancel the November Communion service at Maple Ridge due to covid there. Hopefully we can go back on December 21 at 1:45pm. Stay safe and healthy.  
Jean Kissack, UMW President



### ***PARISH NURSING & WELLNESS NEWS***

#### ***Advent #1 – Balance During the Holidays***

This month of Advent, the time we are preparing for Christmas, is filled with excitement and busyness. For some of us this adds up to more and more stress. When stress is prolonged or very little is done to relieve our negative physical or emotional response, these signals can tell us we need to respond to stress in a different way: feeling tense, irritable, constantly pressured, unable to get worries

and problems off our mind; having difficulty falling asleep or waking at night, thinking clearly or making decisions; being upset by things that normally don't upset you; and exercising excessive self-reliance. Physical symptoms can include: stiffness across neck and shoulders, knot in the stomach, headaches, shortness of breath, numbness or trembling in hands, legs or arms, feeling of being cold and nauseated, diarrhea, dizziness, and upset stomach. What can we do to manage the stress in our lives? Get enough sleep and rest. Sounds simple, but many of us under pressure push ourselves harder and longer—becoming so stressed that we become counter-productive. Slow down. Sometimes the stress response is called the “hurry-disease” because we get on such a treadmill of rush, rush, rush. Take time to smell the flowers along the way. Make a human connection. Allow yourself to give and receive love, caring, and attention. Take time for fun and play. It will bring balance to your life.

***Food Pantry Donations -The Food Pantry can no longer accept egg cartons or magazines.*** Drop off non-perishables on Sunday at Worship or in the cart by the Church Office Monday thru Thursday 9am-1pm.



***THERE WILL BE NO OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022. Just place your check into the offering plate or you may use your own envelopes if you would prefer. Any questions, please contact Mary Shepherd.***

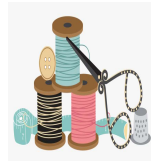


### **Hospitality/Community Meal**

November's Dinner was very successful in one way, but we actually ran out of food by 5:00 pm. We planned for 60 in November so will probably increase that for December. December's menu will include (cheesy potatoes and Ham plus ??). Again, a huge "THANK YOU" to the volunteers who help to make these Dinners a success and for all the wonderful deserts. We will again be doing a "drive up" meal for December (Wednesday, December 15th 4pm - 6pm) and will continue to review the options each month for serving, re: drive up or inside seating. If you want to come and help, please call Mary or Lon. We always have lots of fun. Your Hospitality Committee

## Sewing Group

The sewing group is meeting on Tuesdays from 8:30-11am. You do not need to sew to participate. Come & join us!



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## Spooner Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Team still meets Tuesdays from 4:30 - about 5:30pm. Prayer is one of the most important things we can do as Jesus Followers & praying together is such a blessing! Jean Parker

## Cyber Prayer Chain

Call Jean Parker with your prayer request at 635-3203 or email at [parkerjj@charter.net](mailto:parkerjj@charter.net).



## Daytime Prayer Chain

Evelyn Safeblade 635-7536

## In Our Thoughts & Prayers

*Eddie Hovey; Ted Mitchell; Edith Todd; Luann Bergmann; Terri's sister Debbie; John Safeblade; Marge Bestler; Julie & Don Lawrence; Colleen Haines; Sandy Christner; Michael Stair; Elizabeth Walker; Pat Morris; Ryley Holden; Ruby Aukema; David Skille; Ryley Holden; Shirley Knutson, Alice Scalzo; Geri Skillie*

## Remember our Shut-Ins in your prayers:

Glenview Living Center - John & Eddie Hovey

Maple Ridge Care Center- Jo Henrikson

Cambridge Assisted Living- David & Sheilda Kahl

At Home- Laurel Caruthers; Pat Morris

\*\* If you see someone that needs to be added or removed, please let Carol know in the office. (715-635-3227 OR [spoonerumc@gmail.com](mailto:spoonerumc@gmail.com)) Thank you!

## SPOONER CELEBRATIONS

### December Birthdays

1st Kay Koch  
4th Jack Mitchell  
7th Gene LaPorte  
14th Eddie Hovey  
29th Lennie Pfundheller



### December Anniversaries

11th Dean & Paty Brayton

\*\*Please contact Carol at the church office (715-635-3227 or [spoonerumc@gmail.com](mailto:spoonerumc@gmail.com)) if I missed you or you would like to add someone to the birthday or anniversary list. We want to celebrate with you!

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### Office Manager & Spooner Treasurer

**Needed:** Carol is stepping down from her position here at the church office. It is very convenient to have one person doing both of the duties, but it is NOT necessary for it to be one person. The hours of the office are currently

Monday through Thursday from 9am to 1pm (total of 16 hrs/wk), with occasional extra hours. If you or someone you know may be interested, please have them contact the office (715-635-3227 or [spoonerumc@gmail.com](mailto:spoonerumc@gmail.com)), SPRC Chair - Tami Holden, or Pastor.

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Spooner UMC & Lakeview UMC are following the CDC guidelines for gathering in groups. Facemasks are now optional. We will still have plenty of hand sanitizer available upon entry.



**JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
WILL BE MONDAY, DECEMBER 27TH.**



**December 11th**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Morning of Every Month**  
**At the Fairgrounds**  
**NO INCOME REQUIREMENTS**  
 Distribution 9-10:30am  
 \$20 donation – cash only – checks not accepted  
 For info or to volunteer call 715-635-9309

**Online Worship Services Offered**

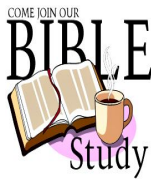
Online Worship Services are posted on our Facebook pages, "Spoooner United Methodist Church" or "Hertel: Lakeview UMC")

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I would like to express a big thank you to those who helped take care of my leaves I appreciated it very much!  
 Pat Morris

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**The Difficult Words of Jesus by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine**

<b>Spoooner - Wednesdays @ 6pm</b>	December 1, 8, 15 January 5, 19, 26
<b>Lakeview - Thursdays @ 5:30pm</b>	December 2, 9, 16 January 6, 13, 20



*Our thoughts & prayers go out to the family of Avis Thompson. Avis Thompson passed away November 25, 2021.*

**Lakeview News & Notes**



**The First Sunday of Each Month is Food Pantry Sunday.** Don't forget your first Sunday donations for the Food Pantry. Non-perishable goods. Everything is much appreciated!

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**LAKEVIEW CELEBRATIONS**

**December Birthdays**

4th Deb Pfluger  
 9th Savannah Gerlach  
 11th Ralph Nagle  
 16th Bret Iverson  
 20th Noel Knoop  
 21st Anne Asmus



**December Anniversaries**

None

**Lakeview Prayer Ministry**

***Keep these friends in Prayer:***

Harvey Asmus; Matthew Allwine; Eleanor Grunnes; Jimmy Harden; Don & Pat Israel; Joyce Jacobs; Kay Krentz; Steven Durand; Desire Rosseli, Jerry Brown; Becky Lawrence; Cory Hanson & all who need our prayers.  
***Our military & their families at home and deployed.*** Matt Lester; David Lester

*\*\* If you see someone that needs to be added or removed, please let Carol know in the office. (715-635-3227 OR spoonerumc@gmail.com) Thank you!*



**Gratitude and the Witness of Stayers**

Let me begin with gratitude. Some psalms begin with gratitude because gratitude is a call to worship, a beacon for new orientation and perspective. I want to thank you for your faithfulness. I am grateful for your focus on the mission while a pandemic rages on. Thank you for putting the Afghan refugees at the center of our table. Thank you for your sacrificial and faithful apportionment dollars and the mission infrastructure we are able to do because we contribute our fair share. I have many miles on my car and I have carried you with me across those miles in prayer and thanksgiving. These days I have been mindful of the witness of those whose mission is at the heart of town and country ministry.

I have been here so long as your bishop, some of you may not remember I was with you as a pastor and district superintendent. I remember with fondness my days in East Troy, and I still remember the road to Crandon. About two months ago after a funeral in Platteville, a rural road compelled me to pull off the well-worn path, and to stay a moment because God had appointed me to a pond that I might sit at the feet of sandhill cranes.

These days are full of the loss of a known world, a feeling of not being at home. For God's people in Babylon, exile was an experience of such a loss and more. Exile is an experience of moral and cultural incongruity. Exile feels like, 'where did the world go?' 'How do I get home?' In his book *Resonance*, the sociologist Hartmut Rosa writes about how our relationship with the world is problematic. For Rosa, acceleration is the problem. We have an endless compulsion toward escalation for resources, output, and unlimited growth. It leads to a pathological relationship with the world and the environmental crisis, the crisis of democracy, and the psychology of burnout. Ask people if they are happy and they will tell you what they have: health, a job, a family, a second home or boat or an accumulation. Rarely do we talk about peace that is found in terms of relationship with God and neighbor.

East Troy and Crandon know about the loss of a world they knew. For decades, we have watched farms disappear, regardless of the name on the political administration of our public good. Today the term rural conjures notions of loss but not investment. People who live in rural places invest in time and fuel as a part of driving for goods and education, but it is an investment in staying to be in relationship with land, often for generations.

In an essay entitled, *The Work of Local Culture*, Wendell Berry reminds us, that education no longer serves the local community but a faceless economy that is not bound to a place or a people and does not remember our good is interdependent. Pointedly Berry says, "our children are educated, then, to leave home, not to stay home, and the costs of this education have been far too little acknowledged."

Today I write thinking about what we can learn from the stayers—those who have paid the prices of staying because of the love of farming or a community or a way of life. Perhaps we could learn from the rural church an ethos that knows, 'we're in this together.

We are here for each other. Our churchyards make room for graveyards because we need to see both the church and names on the stones as we walk up for worship. When we do, we are reminded of our Sunday school teachers, our soloists, and the hard and common work we share with the Saints who rest from their labors but inspire ours.

One of the major words in the gospel of John is a Greek word we translate, 'abide,' 'stay,' or 'remain.' We are told in the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter, 'Abide in me, as I abide in you.' Jesus uses the image of the vine and in doing so centers creation, the vine, the vineyard, the land, and the abiding good we are together in Christ. It is time for our pulpits and passions to center the earth and the kind of nesting that would invest in staying because there is no other planet to turn to with our endless patterns of consumption and leaving.

As a denomination, we are trying to be stayers in rural places that other denominations would not value, and yet our rural networks are dry on the vines and clergy rarely stay long enough to learn their craft. We need what the stayers can teach us about Jesus, the one who abides, stays, remains, to the glory of God. I know the cranes offered me an experience of church, of resonance that was healing, and more. It made me give thanks to God for the people of East Troy and Crandon and Plainfield and Iron Creek and Pleasant Prairie. You have touched me with hope. I thank God for your ministry and will ask us all to listen to your witness. Know that I am praying for you.

Peace to you.  
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung