

Mio United Methodist Church
1101 W. 8th St. Mio, MI 48647
989-826-5598

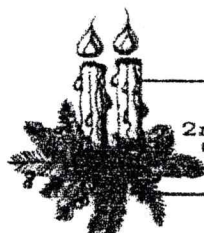
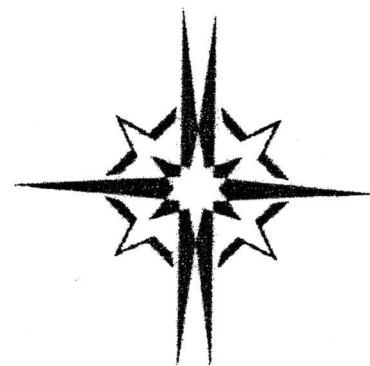
Pastor Brenda Klacking
989-826-5521
December, 2019 Vol. 12.19

The WONDER of CHRISTMAS

A 4 Sunday Series



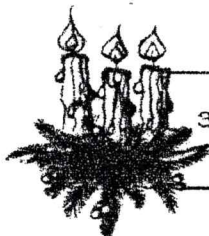
Star



2nd Sunday
of Advent

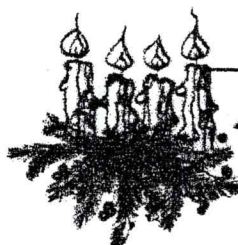
Name

"JESUS"



3rd Sunday
of Advent

Manger



4th Sunday
of Advent

Immanuel
"God with Us"



A Child is Born!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 pm
Bring friends and family to worship the
New Born King.

All are welcome!

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS...

Well, here we go dashing into the Advent season and Christmas. I love Christmas! Perhaps it is because we seem to see more love for each other at Christmas. We will be exploring "the Wonder of Christmas – Once you believe, anything is possible!" during worship. But we also remember that Jesus said the greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

A devotion was shared at a meeting I attended recently written by Jessica Meulendyke. She says: *I'm not sure that we treat the great command like it's the greatest commandment. I have the conviction that if love isn't easy, we don't give it. Often, we only offer our love when it doesn't require much effort. We love our families, our hobbies, and we love donuts. We love the things that are easy, but this world needs people who love in the face of disagreement, rejection, and even hatred. I wonder what would happen if we had an out-of-control type of love—one without conditions, fears, barriers, qualifiers, or protectors. What if we loved when it wasn't easy or convenient? What if we loved God and others **recklessly**? We've all had moments when we could have extended and given our love away, but instead, we chose to do nothing. **Doing nothing is the silent killer of the gospel.***

In the parable known as "The Good Samaritan", Jesus paints a picture of what it means to love recklessly. The Samaritan didn't only see the need, but he chose to do something! The story compares the Samaritan's actions to a Priest and a Levite, who chose to do nothing. It's interesting that these two people were "religious" people who claimed to love God, yet they avoided the messy, hard situation. How many of us do this in life? We love when it's easy, we are good people but seem to go neutral when reckless love is required.

The danger for most of us is not that we'll become bad people who don't care about things that matter. No, the danger is that we'll become good people who don't do anything that matters! Within you lies a person who desires to love. God's Spirit is pulling you and inviting you to become more of that person. The Spirit never guilts you, shames you, or bullies you to become loving. He compels you!

Loving God and loving our neighbors—what if we took this idea of loving recklessly to our literal neighbors? Meaning the people who live closest to you. The truth is the vast majority of us have little or no relationship with our neighbors. So many of us are ignoring the people right next to us! The kind of love Jesus calls us to is not always easy, but it is always right! Those who choose to love God and our neighbors with a reckless love will be the ones who change the world!

May the Christmas season not just be the season of love but may that love for God and others continue into the New Year and beyond. Tom and I wish you many Christmas blessings and reckless love as we walk together into the next season of our lives.

Blessings,
Pastor Brenda

CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

SECURITY - Please read it again.

Yes! It can happen in Mio. Folks across the nation thought the same as we do. "It can't happen to us." But tragedy did happen to many.

After Glen and Dawn Hall attended a meeting on security of such places as our church, it is recommended that the 3 doors on the east end of the church be locked when worship starts. This was agreed upon by the Ad Council and will be put into effect immediately.

So if you come late to church you will have to use the main entrance or the back door by the restrooms to enter the church.

This is not being done to scare anyone just protect us all. So remember:
THE 3 DOORS AT THE EAST END OF THE CHURCH WILL BE LOCKED AT THE BEGINNING OF WORSHIP.

DIRECT \$\$\$\$

The dollars are climbing! The thermometer now reads \$ 46,000. Please continue to give your Family Fare sales slips to Nancy Crane to count.

PART-TIME JOB OPPORTUNITY

Custodial position available in 2020.
See Pastor Brenda or Dave Gordon for employment applications.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

With Christmas Eve falling on the usual deadline for January's Newsletter, it will be December 19th for this month only. Please have all info to Marlene by this date. Thank You.



UPDATE PRAYER CONCERNS

The Prayer Concerns monthly list will be updated for 2020. If there is any person/s that you have asked prayer for that can be removed or must remain, PLEASE give the name to LaNita or Marlene. At our discretion we will be updating and removing names that have been listed for several months.



The Christmas Tree in the narthex is the place for the mittens, scarves, and hats that the UMW will be divide between Mio School and His Love Family Resources. These may be handmade or purchased. Let's fill the tree.

Advent Envelopes

Every Advent we include Advent Offering Envelopes with the church newsletter. These are a reminder of our special push at this time of the year to share the blessings of Jesus Christ with others; material blessings as well as spiritual. As the Apostle John has said: "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth," (1 John 3:18)

The Advent & Lent offerings will go into the Missions fund so we are able to fund the major program of providing Christmas for those in need.

You can put the offering in the plate on Sunday or mail it to the church at 1101 W 8th, Mio, MI 48647.



Red poinsettias will be ordered to adorn the altar area during the season. They may be in memory of, in honor of or just for their beauty. The cost is \$11.50 each and the deadline is Dec. 8th. See Roma to place your order and please pay at time of ordering.

Unhanging of the Greens

Please stay after worship on Sunday, January 5th to take all of the decorations down both inside and outside of the church. If we are all careful and store them in the labeled boxes provided, they will be a "breeze" to find and use next year.

MIO UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S ANNUAL COOKIE WALK



Are you baking cookies?

Please have them at the church on Saturday, December 14th between 9am and Noon unless other arrangements have been made.

Are you buying cookies?

There will be 3 size boxes - \$5.00, \$10.00, and \$15.00.

You will be given the size box you request and a plastic glove. From there your fun begins. Fill your box with your choice of cookies. There are always lots of different shapes and kinds. Have a great time! Share them with your neighbors or maybe a shut-in!

Missions Committee Report

As I write this Thanksgiving is days away and Christmas around the corner. At this time of year we are reminded of how truly blessed we are in this great country and just how thankful we can be and how generous we need to be. God calls us to that and it is a wonderful time of sharing and giving to not only our own family but to others, especially those who are less fortunate and need a hand up.

This is what our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, our Adopt-a-Family community program, our UMW Mitten tree and Heifer Project does. I could go on. This is a generous congregation and we can thank God for the Blessings He gives us in return.

Thank you all who gave to the Shoebox collection. A total of 8 boxes were packed with all kinds of goodies that will bless children in other lands. This will also give them an opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ and what a precious gift He is.

Tags are now hung on a tree in fellowship hall for the Adopt-a-Family program. This is how it works. Individuals apply to our local Department of Health and Human Services to request that gifts be purchased for themselves and/or their family members. There is a vetting process and when DHS okays a request it is passed on to Sharon Gradowski at the Strawberry Patch. She then gives them to the churches here in Mio who want to help these families by purchasing and wrapping the gifts. Each tag lists the Family by # and the sex and age of the recipient. Inside the tags are the items

and sizes, where supplied, of their wish list. **Please return your gift with the information attached eg. Family # and the sex and age of the recipient you have chosen. Then return your gifts to the church by Sunday December 15th.**

The families will also be given a Family Fare gift card so they can purchase some food for their Christmas dinner. The money will come from the Church Mission's Budget. Thank you for bringing Christmas joy to those less fortunate and God Bless you.

Submitted by Susan Hegel, Chm.

GIVING TUESDAY

Dec. 3rd - 12 am - 11:59 pm

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage giving, and to celebrate generosity worldwide. Our Community Foundation has teamed up with Love INC to inspire the spirit of giving in northeast Michigan.

Visit cfnem.org on Tuesday, Dec. 3rd from 12 am - 11:59 pm to make an online donation to Love INC and help raise up our community.

Recent activities of the Wesleyan Covenant Association

On November 8 and 9 the WCA held a Global Gathering in Tulsa to conduct some Association business and have a wonderful day with a time of worship and teaching. We (Susan and Bob Hegel) attended as part of the official Michigan delegation. Hopefully we can bring some short videos of the actual event for us to view in the next few months. Meanwhile, here are some highlights.

History of Conflict in the UMC

- In 2016 General Conference ended with the issue of sexual ethics unresolved. It set up a commission to make a recommendation.
- In 2019 a Special General Conference devoted only to this issue met and voted. The result was a decision to continue the 50 year UMC (and 2000 year Christian) understanding of marriage to be a man and woman.
- After this decision, many Bishops and Pastors publicly stated that they would openly disobey this understanding and attempt to do gay marriages and ordinations. This has recently occurred even in Michigan.

Recent Efforts to find a solution to this conflict

- As of September 2019, at least four proposals have been submitted to be debated and voted at the 2020 General Conference that would provide means for UMC Churches to leave and become part of a new expression of a Wesleyan Methodist denomination. Such a new denomination is expected to come from the efforts of the WCA.
- Two weeks ago, in Tulsa, the WCA legislative assembly endorsed one of these plans called the "Indianapolis Plan". This plan allows entire annual conferences to depart the UMC and entire churches to leave their current Annual Conference and join a different Methodist denomination if they desire.

Some Highlights of the New Wesleyan Methodist Denomination (yet to be officially named)

- This new Denomination will be "up and running" no later than the Fall of 2020.
- A partial Draft proposed Book of Discipline has been approved and has been made public (See the WCA Website). Highlights are: Bishop service is term limited, not lifetime; Individual churches can have a greater say in Pastor appointment if they wish; Central organization is designed to be much smaller than current UMC; More evangelistic and less secular social action focus; Traditional definition of marriage and strong Biblical authority recognized.
- In the next five months, the new Draft Book of Discipline will be finished and at least six Ministry Task Force groups will be appointed and begin working on the "nut and bolts" of this exciting new expression of genuine Wesleyan Evangelistic Methodism.

What does this mean for Mio UMC (and any other Traditionally minded Church)

- If the 2020 General Conference approves a Gracious Exit plan, the Michigan Annual Conference will likely choose to be "progressive" based on the results of the 2019 Annual Conference.
- As soon as Fall 2020, any Michigan UMC Church will be allowed to leave the "now progressive" Michigan Conference and join the new Traditional Denomination. A "good guess" is that at least 25 and perhaps as many as 100 Michigan UMC Churches will leave and join the new group.
- Any current UMC Pastor will be able to apply for admission to the new denomination under provisions of the new Book of Discipline.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

8 – Don Peters
12 – Jerry Doll
14 – Rosemary Locher
 Nick Kowaleski
15 – Hugo Burzlaff
21 – Larry Lee

DECEMBER LECTIONARY

Dec. 1st

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Dec. 8th

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Dec. 15th

Isaiah 35:1-10
Luke 1:47-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Dec. 22nd

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 29th

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our Church
Care Givers
Shut-ins
Those Grieving
Wesleyan Covenant Assoc.
2020 General Conference
Linda Atherton
Linda's Father
Sara Bartley
Caleb & Connor Bezemek
Angie Bicknell (7)
Judy Birtles (7)
Rick Birtles (7)
Bill Brooks (9)
Brianna Brown (10)
Ted Burkland (11)
Dan Butler
Karen Crane
Nancy Crane
Kate Czeisputowski (10)
Hailey Deyarmond (9)
Janet Deyarmond (3)
Molly Eastman (3)
Zach Elder (9)
Delores Faust (5)
Michelle Goodyear (11)
Lou Goss (6)
Brandi Hall Whalen (9)
Elizabeth Hall (11)
Glen Hall (6)
Sarah Hegel
Alice High (8)
Claudia Huntsberry (10)
Linda Johnson (10)
Janet Kann
Mert Keith
Lisa Kezeli (9)
Mitchell Klacking (6)
Jack Locher (8)
Helen Lomerson (7)
Bill McGlynn (9)
Nan McLloyd (10)
Dorothy McNamara (9)
Corbin Morse (11)
Katrina Pesco (6)
Verline Peters (9)
Vera Rose Phillips (10)
Rafiki
Lois Robacker (7)

Gregory Schultz (6)
Harland Schultz
Paul Shaw (7)
Hannah Sherwood
Joe Shobe (10)
Velma Stout (4)
Cayci Swisher (9)
Randy Waite (10)
Andrea Walz
Woody Woodford

At Home

Charlotte Peters
Irene Miller – in SC

At the Villa – Rose City

Olive Derrick

At Wellspring

Kimberly Derry

At The Brook – Grayling

Marge Bryant

Military

All Armed Forces
River Grishaber
Corey Brown
Harley Foust
Joe Johnson
Dennis Kann III
Whitney Kann
Kalvin Kezeli
Lars Scheid

Family of Wayne Pfaff

Bob Boykin

Gordon Breuker

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Prayer Request: Tom
Shoulders burned his hand
very badly.
Praise: After West Branch and
U of M medical staff work
Tom has healed miraculously.

December 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 1 ■ 9:30 AM Worship ■ 10:45 AM Trustees ■ 10:45 AM Sunday School | 2 | 3 ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 4 | 5 <i>1 PM - UMW Christmas Luncheon at Elbert</i> | 6 | 7 |
| 8 ■ 9:30 AM Worship ■ 10:45 AM Sunday School | 9 | 10 ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 11 ■ 6:00 PM Volleyball Banquet | 12 ■ 7:00 PM Ad Council | 13 | 14 |
| 15 ■ 9:30 AM Worship ■ 10:45 AM UMM ■ 10:45 AM UMW Cookie Walk | 16 | 17 ■ 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 18 ■ 1:00 PM Prayer Bears | 19 ■ 9:00 AM Newsletter Deadline ■ 6:00 PM Football Banquet | 20 | 21 |
| 22 ■ 9:30 AM Worship ■ 10:45 AM Sunday School | 23 | 24 ■ 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 ■ 9:30 AM Worship ■ 10:45 AM Sunday School | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

METROPLEX MI 480

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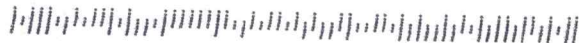
Visit Our Web Site at:

www.MioUMC.org

Also check us out on Face Book

E-mail Address: Office@MioUMC.org

48085-509506



Mio United Methodist Church Mission Statement

As believers in God, thankful for the Father's faithful provision,
The Son's loving sacrifice for our sins, and the Holy Spirit's
Enabling presence in our lives we strive to:

- Worship, serve, and obey God
- Grow closer to God
- Teach the Bible
- Share God's love with others
- Be a community of fellowship and encouragement...

So that all may hear and receive the forgiveness and friendship of God.