

# **The Messenger**

## **"Church News Around the Congregation"**

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

Rev. Michelle Forsyth  
989-826-5521 or 903-5264  
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### **Mio United Methodist Church has Suspended Worship until Further Notice.**

#### **From Bishop Bard**

*"Within the Michigan Conference we have had an appointed pastor die from COVID, and a number of other pastors, pastor's family members, church staff, church members, and conference staff contract the virus. The rapid spread of the virus is creating a strain on our hospitals and health care professionals.*

*Here is my first ask, please get a flu shot and encourage others to do the same. This is critically important as hospital and health care resources become scarce. In my last pastoral letter, I also said that you need to be making plans that include the distinct possibility of on-line Advent and Christmas worship. This is now more than a distinct possibility. Today, I am asking you in the strongest way possible to refrain from in-person indoor worship for the Advent and Christmas seasons. I am deeply grateful for all the ways you have encouraged the wearing of masks, social distancing, and handwashing. It has helped. Yet, community spread has become so prolific that we need to do more to protect public health, promote the common good and care for the well-being of others in the name and spirit of Jesus."*

With this in mind the decision has been made for our church, Mio United Methodist Church, to suspend worship. We will return to regular worship when the pandemic has subsided and all can be safe.

We can keep in touch through Facebook. Worship will be live streamed on Facebook. You can access it through the website [www.MioMethodist.org](http://www.MioMethodist.org).

Blessed Advent, my sisters, and brothers in Christ!

One of my favorite things to do this time of year is listening to Christmas music. My grandfather was a pretty good musician. I remember on Christmas Eve, he would play his guitar, and all my cousins, aunts and uncles, my mom, dad, and brother would gather around the fireplace to sing Christmas songs by the fire. So, I have joyful memories of Christmases past because of music.

For me, listening to music that my grandpa played during our Christmas family gatherings generates a deep nostalgic emotional experience. I recognize my nostalgia doesn't come from the music. It comes from the heartwarming experiences from my childhood family's Christmas gatherings.

Yet, I experience a sense of awe and wonder on Christmas Eve singing Silent Night. For most people, singing hymns on Christmas Eve allows God's love to burst in and capture our hearts. Granted, God's message of hope, peace, love, and joy is always present. But, some of us experience God's mystical and mysterious profound unconditional love all over again during the Advent season, especially during worship.

Friends, this Advent season will be much different than in the past years. We may not be together in worship to sing Silent by candlelight. I'll fully disclose that makes my heart extremely sad. However, my hope is we will discover how to be shrouded in God's peace, hope, love, and joy during the quarantine. COVID has taken so much from us, but it cannot take away Jesus being born again in our lives. It cannot take the experience of us being Christ's love and the expression of God's hope to all the world. Merry Christmas! And may the peace and joy of our Savior's birth live in your heart all year long, especially during these very uncertain times.

Abundant Blessings,

*Michelle Forsyth*

The Advent Envelopes are included in this Newsletter for your use. The donations received will be used by the Missions Team to fulfill our obligation to the County-wide Adopt-a-Family project. Family Fare Gift cards and gifts for families will be purchased and distributed to those less fortunate at this Christmas Season. Please show God's love with a generous donation and mail it to Mio United Methodist Church, 1101 W 8<sup>th</sup> St. Mio, MI 48647.

Thank you and have a Blessed Christmas.

## NOTICES:

\*If there is an emergency or you need one-to-one pastoral care, please call Pastor Michelle at 989-903-5264 or email her at [pastormichelleforsyth@gmail.com](mailto:pastormichelleforsyth@gmail.com). She will be staying at the parsonage Sunday through Thursday.

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## 2021 CHURCH OFFICERS

Included in this issue are the officers and committees that serve our church. These folks generously give of their time to work for you in their respective positions for the good of the church.

All officers will begin and/or continue their work on January 1, 2021. If you are one of these persons, please be diligent and attend any meetings that may include your position.

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## ONLY \$37,000 TO GO!!!

Another milestone has been reached. The thermometer for Direct \$\$\$ is now at \$113,000.00 and heading for \$150,000. Great work everyone. **Keep those complete Family Fare receipts coming.**

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## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Mio United Methodist Men's Group has been chartered since 1965. The 2021 charter has been renewed for \$85.00 and the pledge to the church for 2020 paid for \$600.00.

Various organizations have also benefited from the UMM fundraising projects. These are the General Commission of UMM, Society of St. Andrews, American Cancer Society, Rafiki Foundation, Wounded Warriors, and Boy Scouts of America.

Local community organizations that have received help are B.S.A. Troop #757 - Mio, Habitat for Humanity, Love INC, Lydia's Gate, His Love Family Resources and Hospice of Helping Hands.

Many thanks to all who made this possible.

William Kusey, President MUMM

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## ADOPT-A-FAMILY

If you have a key to the church you may pick up a family tag in the Fellowship Hall. If not, call Marlene at 989-619-9374 for a family tag.

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**This is the last newsletter  
until church resumes.**

**Article #5- How does the transition work and what happens to each branch after the vote?**

The actual transition to separate the UMC into two separate denominations begins after the 2021 UMC General Conference in August 2021. The departure by any individual, church or entire Conference to join the newly formed denomination is the starting point of the separation. Any of these who do not choose departure remain members of the UMC. There will be a period of about 3 years for Churches to decide their own future. Individuals can leave (and return) to the UMC anytime they want, just the same as today. The big difference in the plan of separation is to allow entire churches to leave and take all their property: building deeds, bank accounts, furniture and equipment. Under the present rules this kind of departure is nearly impossible.

The "Protocol of Separation" anticipates the formation of a new traditional Wesleyan denomination which the WCA is presently organizing. Departing Churches under the "protocol" rules must join this new denomination to be eligible for the free and clear departure including freedom from paying a large pension obligation.. By 2022 there may well be a third choice in this plan which would be "Ultra Liberal" in nature and theology.

As soon as churches begin to leave the present UMC for the traditional choice, the present UMC will begin changing its "Discipline" (rule book) to include a much more liberal theology while attempting to accommodate the views of traditional individuals who are hesitant to leave. This is much like the present situation where leadership is liberal, and a majority of members are traditional. This is not likely to be any more stable than the present unstable situation.

The new traditional denomination will have a preliminary governing structure for about one year so plenty of churches will have time to join. Then a final governance structure, named leaders and a final Book of "Doctrines and Discipline" will be adopted by a general conference of all the member churches of the new denomination. After that, churches that remain part of the UMC will still be able to leave under the terms for a few more years.

As stated in article #4 in the November newsletter, there will be a vote of the present entire UMC in August 2021, after which the new "preliminary" traditional denomination will be immediately made active. Churches and Pastors may immediately join. It is likely that 4 or 5 current Annual or Central Conferences may quickly vote to join, bringing all their member churches and pastors in at once. It is very unlikely that the Michigan Area Annual Conference will vote to leave the UMC. Thus, its member churches will remain in the "Post Separation" UMC until a member church has its own vote. Thus, it's likely that each Michigan UMC church that wants to become part of the new Traditional (WCA) denomination, must hold its own vote.

The future UMC, after a number of traditionalist churches leave, will likely adopt a policy of permitting same sex marriage within the church and will likely adopt theological positions that lessen the emphasis on the traditional view that Christ is the only path to personal salvation. Social justice focus and less evangelism trends will continue. The property trust clause in Church deeds will continue, as well as the present process of Clergy appointments. This remaining UMC will become much smaller very quickly and so we can expect to see downsizing and consolidation. Some of this has already begun.

The new traditional denomination will be noticeably different. A return to strong Wesleyan evangelism and teachings, retention of traditional marriage, and much more local church self determination will be the case. A new model of local church driven mission efforts has been drafted and will be tested in a few churches eager to leave the UMC. Bishops will be term-limited and there will be much less "central control" and the attendant bureaucracy that comes with it. Local churches will have the option to have nearly complete control over pastoral appointments from an extensive directory of pastors ordained in this new denomination.

A recent news item from the Michigan Annual Conference newsletter revealed that Michigan will have a "two part" annual conference. Part one, likely virtual in June 2021, and a part two in October 2021 with some possibility of being a live event. Part one business items would be limited to bare essentials, like last year. Part two, since it will be after the General Conference vote for separation, might well have legislative items that will be responsive to the consequences of the split. Stay tuned!

## Missions Report

WOW.....15 ½ Shoeboxes were collected for the **Operation Christmas Child** ministry. Thanks to all and to Dawn and Glenn who delivered them to the Fairview Mennonite Church.

**Adopt a Family Project** is our next end-of-year effort that will support those right here in our community. Because of Covid 19 our effort is going to take a bit more effort. The tree with the Family tickets is set up in fellowship hall. If you were not at Charge Conference on November 22 to pick one up then feel free to either use your key to go into the church or call Marlene Gordon 989-619-9374 and she will pop over and let you in. The same method will be required (key or Marlene or someone you know with a key) to bring your Adopt a Family gifts to the church. Please have them to the church by December 15<sup>th</sup> and place them in fellowship hall on the table labeled with your family member's number. All gifts should be wrapped and labeled with the person's family number and their age and sex designated. We have 8 families with a total of 18 adults and children to buy for this year. Pray that we can bless all these folks with Christ's Joy this year. Thanks for your participation in this important community wide program.

Please direct any questions to Susan Hegel, Missions Chm. at 989-745-4467 or ask Marlene or Barb as they have been a big help in organizing this project this year and will probably be able to readily answer your question. Thanks church family for making this a real family project.

### Mission Budget Disbursements

Our year end giving to missions will be a total of \$2000 being disbursed to our usual Local, US, and National ministries. Thank you for your year long generosity and the expected Advent giving which are also funds used to help us support the mission of the church. I will be giving you a detailed report in the 2021 newsletter.

Disbursement of Missions funds will again include the Wesleyan Covenant Association. This is the organization that our church aligned itself with when the separation in the UMC became evident and we stopped sending in our apportionments. The following is a recent letter from the WCA in regards to ministry grants being given to support twelve ministries in various African countries and the Philippines. We will participate in this with an amount of \$250 sent this coming month.

### WCA Awards Grants to Twelve Ministries in Central Conferences

The Global Council of the Wesleyan Covenant Association recently celebrated the approval of ministry grants totaling \$180,150. The grants were disbursed from its Central Conference Ministry Fund to support twelve ministries in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Zimbabwe.

The Central Conference Ministry Fund was established by the WCA in the aftermath of the 2019 special General Conference when some U.S. annual conferences and local churches withdrew support for some ministries in the central conferences due to disagreements over the General Conference's adoption of the Traditional Plan reaffirming the UM Church's historic teachings on marriage, ordination, and sexual ethics.

Seeded by an initial \$100,000 WCA grant, the fund has attracted an additional \$285,837 in gifts from WCA members and friends to date.

I will put a complete copy of this letter that describes the specific ministries receiving grants on the table in Fellowship Hall or call or email me and I'll forward the letter to you. It's exciting work that we, in partnership with the WCA, are participating in. It includes, to mention a few, a church growth project in Ethiopia, a vocational and training center in Kenya, a Micro-entrepreneurship program for youth in the East Congo area, Methodist women's center, well projects in the Philippines and in Zimbabwe and more which I will tell you about as we travel this road of new horizons.

Susan Hegel, Mission's Chm – 989-745-4467

## 2021 MIO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LAY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

\* **Bold Print** indicates new officers/committee members

### ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Administrative Council Chairperson	Dave Gordon	989-826-3788
Administrative Council Vice-Chairperson	William Kusey	989-826-5616
Administrative Council Secretary	Marlene Gordon	989-619-9374
Lay Leader	Nancy Crane	989-826-5838
Lay Member to MAC	Bob Hegel	616-560-6082
Alternate Lay Member to MAC	TBA	
SPRC Chairperson	Dave Gordon	989-826-3788
Church Treasurer	Kris Vaughn	989-390-9581
Asst' Treasurer	Barb Kann	989-826-3055
Financial Secretary	Dave Gordon	989-826-3788
Asst' Financial Secretary	CarolLynn VanNorman	810-441-4241
<b>Finance Chairperson</b>	<b>Kris Vaughn</b>	<b>989-390-9581</b>
Christian Education Chairperson	LaNita Olsen	989-685-2107
Worship Chairperson	Roma Galbraith	989-826-3427
Mission Chairperson	Susan Hegel	989-745-4467
Memorial Co-Chairperson	Kathy Dudek	989-350-5344
Memorial Co-Chairperson	Marlene Gordon	989-619-9374
Kitchen Chairperson	Dawn Hall	989-415-7485
United Methodist Women	Nancy Crane	989-826-5838
United Methodist Men	William Kusey	989-826-5616

### ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Member-at-Large	Barbara Butler	989-390-6617
Member-at-Large	Nancy Crane	989-826-5838
Member-at-Large	Lynn Galbraith	989-826-3427
Member-at-Large	Glen Hall	989-415-7485
Member-at-Large	Dennis Maier	989-826-3752
Member-at-Large	Becky Sidebottom	989-390-6473
Member-at-Large	Jerry Doll	989-826-3371
Member-at-Large	Dennis Kann	989-826-3055

### LAY LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT/NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Becky Sidebottom	Marilyn Schutz	<b>Carol-Lynn VanNorman</b>
Kris Vaughn	Barbara Kann	<b>Dennis Maier</b>
Rosemary Locher	Marlene Gordon	<b>Sue Kowaleski</b>

### STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
<b>Sue Kowaleski</b>	Dave Gordon	<b>Bob Hegel</b>
Gloria Phillips	Kris Vaughn	<b>Barb Kann</b>
Kathy Dudek	Dawn Hall	<b>Becky Sideottom</b>

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Gary Sidebottom	Jane Lord	<b>Dawn Hall</b>
Glen Hall	Sue Kowaleski	<b>Dennis Kann</b>
Kris Vaughn	Mike Dorn	<b>Lynn Galbraith</b>

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Carol-Lynn VanNorman  
Dick Lord

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

None

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Aiden  
Dottie  
Peace  
Stacy  
Tammy  
Linda Atherton  
Jami Booth  
Ted Bruckland  
Larry Brunke  
Mike Butler  
Debbie Butler  
Wade Cannon  
David Carrick  
Kirk Derrick  
Janet Deyarmond  
Richard Deyarmond  
Kelly Dudek  
JoAnn Dudek  
Sue Feltner  
Roma Galbraith  
Paul Globie  
Glen & Dawn Hall  
Bob Hegel  
Dave Jasper  
Baby Johnson  
Terry Kann  
Gail King  
Marcel Lamb  
Shar Lee  
Beth Marcis  
Mary May  
Dorothy Nierson  
Sue McLane

David Oetting  
Will Olsen  
Shelby Phillips  
Brandy Quick  
Rafiki children  
Diane Ross  
Marie Schneider  
Gregory Schultz  
Harland Schultz  
Shar's nephew  
Ed Smith  
Jennifer Timm  
Gini VanAntwerp  
Andrea Walz  
Avery Simone Walz  
Vi Ward  
Diane Winstead

*Family of Bill McGlynn*  
*Mert Keith*  
*Sarah Oliver*

## SHUT-INS

*At The Brook - Grayling*  
Marge Bryant

## MILITARY

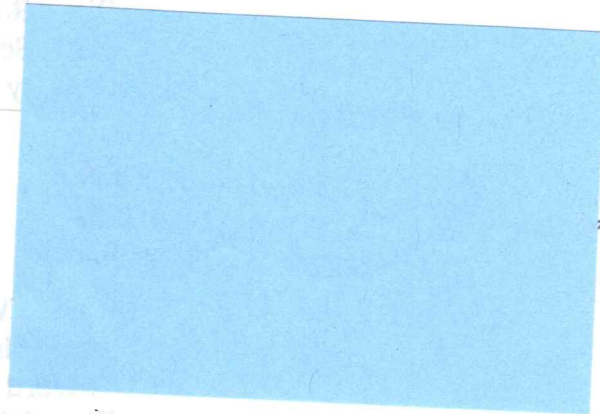
All Armed Forces  
Corey Brown  
Whitney Kann  
Lars Shied

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*Lord Jesus, at this joyous season,  
When we celebrate thy birth,  
Flood each heart with kindness  
Until it spreads through all the earth.  
Let the Star the Wisemen followed  
Light our paths again,  
And the song that woke the shepherds  
Still abide in hearts of men. Amen*

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Phone Number 989-826-5598



Visit our Web Site at:

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

Also check us out on Facebook

E-mail Address: [MioMethodist@gmail.com](mailto:MioMethodist@gmail.com)

486404-363980



## **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.