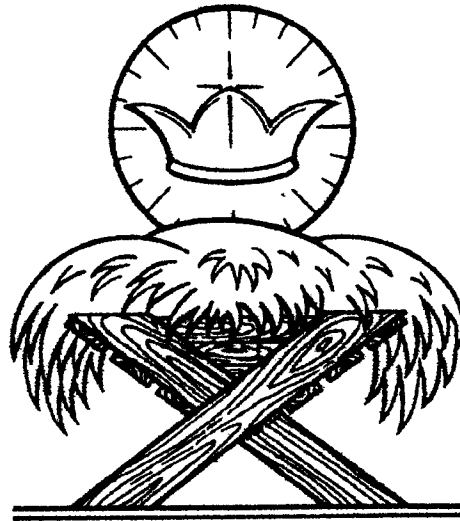


The MESSENGER

Rev. Michelle Forsyth
989-826-5521 or 989-903-5264
December, 2021 Vol. 12.21

News from Around the Congregation

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



For unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given ...
Isaiah 9:6

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Friday, December 24th

6:00 pm

Bring a friend to celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child with beautiful Christmas hymns, Communion, and Candlelight service.

Happy Blessed Season of Advent, Everyone!

For many, the Advent Season is their favorite. I do believe you all know it is my favorite. Putting up the Christmas tree, setting up the Nativity scene, and oh, my Advent Wreath is my favorite thing to set up. Each wooden piece of my wreath has a one-sentence prayer. So, when my eyes first saw the prayers for hope, love, peace, and joy, I had to have it. And, of course, I can't leave out the Christ candle prayer.

Let me share each prayer with you. I hope the blessings bring you as much joy as they bring me. The *hope* candle prayer says, "God, fill us with the fruits of righteousness that Christ may receive an eager welcome from us at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven." The *love* prayer is "God of love, fill our hearts with Your Holy Spirit, and as You revealed Your Son through his coming as man, so lead us through his glory of the resurrection." The *joy* candle's prayer is "God, may Your people, experience the joy of salvation and celebrate the coming of Christ with love and thanksgiving." The *peace* prayer is "God, open our hearts in welcome, so that we may share in the wisdom of Christ and become one with him when he comes in glory." The last and most importantly is the *Christ* candle's prayer, which is "O' God, bestow thy blessings upon this wreath and grant that we may receive Your bountiful grace."

When Nyomi and Blaine were younger, Bob and I would light the candle, and Nyomi and Blaine would take turns praying the prayer every Sunday in Advent before we left for church. Things are different now. Our traditions are changing, and that's completely okay. Yet, one thing will always remain a tradition, and that is, the Advent Wreath is on the table as a reminder that Christ is coming back and we must be ready when the day comes.

My siblings, I hope that during the Advent Season, you embrace God's unfathomable love for you and that it brings joy and peace only God can bring to your hearts and homes. And as always, it is an honor and an absolute joy to be your pastor during this most sacred Advent Season.

Abundant Blessings this Advent Season,
Pastor, Michelle

THE MABEL HAGER MEMORIAL FUND

Mabel Hager was born in Harriman, Tennessee, on January 10, 1901. She married Charles Hager and together they had two children, Phyllis and Charles (Skip). The Hagers made their home in Mio, Michigan, where Mabel was a homemaker and was well known for her wonderful biscuits. She never drove a car because of poor eyesight, but that never stopped her from being an active member of her community.

In 1933 Mabel became a member of the Mio Methodist Church. She joined the Church's women's group and sang in the choir until she had to give it up because of her failing eyesight. She and several other ladies of the Church formed a prayer group that met weekly for many years. And for more than twenty years Mabel went to the Mio Nursing Home faithfully every Wednesday morning for a sing-a-long with the residents until the home was closed. Music and her church were very important to Mabel.

Upon her death, Mabel left instructions to use the assets in her estate to support the Mio United Methodist Church. A fund was established to assist in the building of an addition to the Church as well as establish an endowment for the Church's future needs.

Mabel Hager made a commitment to her church both during her lifetime and after her death. Her legacy of caring will continue in perpetuity in the stewardship of the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan. As years go by, and with the help of the Community Foundation, Mabel will continue to support the Church that she loved so much.

Our church and many missions and community ministries have benefitted from the endowment set up by Mabel Hager. Some of these are Vacation Bible School, Bikes donated for the Bike Safety Classes, Sports and Honors banquets hosted by our church for Mio School, musical instruments purchased for the school, scholarships for the school, also the Women's Retreat held at church in 2021, and the Grief Share Sessions hosted by our church.

Mabel's commitment to assist our church in ministry has blessed so many and her legacy of caring continues on. Mabel truly was a Proverbs 31 Virtuous Woman.



Mission's Newsletter

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

First of all, thanks you for the wonderful response to our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection. 23 boxes were filled by our Mio congregation, and they are on their way to Samaritan's Purse to be processed and sent out to children all over the world. I'm always so glad to see the video's that they send and to see the excitement and smiles of the children. We only showed a very short clip in church on Mission's Sunday, but the disc has much more on it so if you're interested let me know and I will share the disc with you.

ADOPT A FAMILY

As I write this the Adopt A FAMILY tags are on the tree in Fellowship Hall waiting to be picked. Each family has written their Christmas wish list and while sometimes they get lengthy, we know it is a wish list and we can fulfill only the wishes that we are able to. So, thank you ahead of time for your participation in blessing these families with a brighter Christmas than they would be able to have without our participation.

There is always a place on the Mission Committee for all who desire to bring their mission heart to the table. Our committee would welcome you.

Susan Hegel, Mission Chairman

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December 2021 Wesleyan Covenant Association Update

Bob Hegel

Looking forward to the fall of 2022, there are many things happening "behind the scenes" at the WCA. Recall that the WCA was formed 5 years ago to encourage an orthodox revival within the UMC and expanded its role as a division in the UMC became inevitable. About 9 months ago a group of UMC leaders and notable members announced plans to form a new denomination to be called the Global Methodist Church. The actual labor of all the steps needed is being done by the WCA staff and volunteers. The WCA staff is actually quite small so let me introduce these key people and their role in the new movement. FYI, there is no actual "office" in this age of virtual work.

Rev. Keith Boyette, a UMC Elder in the Virginia Conference is the President and works beyond "full time". Prior to the ministry, Keith was an attorney in Virginia, so his legal skills are a key ingredient in his job. He leads the organizing efforts of the GMC and importantly also leads in the negotiating process within the UMC to accomplish an amicable separation.

Rev. Walter Fenton, also a UMC Elder and Vice President of Strategic Relations manages and helps produce the extensive communications and documentations needed for this transformational journey. Prior to his WCA work, Walter was part of the staff at Good News Magazine, the renewal publication for evangelical Methodists since 1968.

Teresa Marcus is the Administrative Assistant located near Keith Boyette who manages the flow of activities for the dispersed staff members.

Rev. Angela Pleasants, another UMC Elder recently accepted the position of Vice President, Clergy and Church relations. In this role she will be key to the transitional process for IMC churches and Pastors who wish to migrate to the GMC beginning in 2022.

Mr. Simon Mafunda is a lifelong UMC lay member in the Zimbabwe East Annual Conference. He was just appointed Africa Coordinator to assist in the communications and organizing efforts of the African UMC churches where more than 1/3 of the present UMC membership resides.

See more about all this at the WCA website <https://wesleyancovenant.org/> and also plan to attend a Michigan WCA regional webinar on Saturday December 11. Angela Pleasants will be the featured speaker and can answer "virtual" questions. The Zoom link info is on the WCA website under the Events tab.

CONGRATULATIONS to

Rev. Michelle Forsyth for attaining her goal as an Ordained Elder of the United Methodist Church.

Michelle has worked long and hard through several years of study to make the end result after written exams and oral exams. (One question was 1½ pages long.)

Also she has been a wife and a mother along with all of the work that it takes to accomplish this goal.

This past year has been a difficult one with all of the work and creations that had to be done like Bible Studies, Workshops, Personal classes, Meetings with Ordination Board, and many other events. Along with these she has served two churches – Churchill UMC and Mio UMC.

Again we say CONGRATULATIONS to a lady who has worked hard and served as a special pastor to both churches.

DIRECT \$\$\$\$ now stands at \$44,000.00
Keep those Family Fare receipts coming! When we get to \$150,000.00 we will receive another \$1000.00.

UNHANGING OF THE GREENS
Sunday, January 2nd
After worship

Stay for a while after worship to help UNdecorate the Christmas Season. Many hands make quick work of the decorating.

Advent Envelopes

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

Every day in millions of mailboxes across the United States, letters with special "non-profit" postage stamps appear, stuffed among catalogs, magazines, and flyers. Consider something local.

The Mio United Methodist Church is including in this newsletter an Advent Envelope for you. Any gifts that you generously put in the envelope will be appreciated and used to help those less fortunate in Oscoda County. It will provide food and Christmas gifts to many who would otherwise not have anything at Christmas.

As Christians we are asked to give to the "needy" among us. Think about your own circumstances and how you would feel if you were one of the "needy". Help your neighbor to have a Merry Christmas with a gift in the Advent Envelope.

Mail the envelope to MUMC, 1101 W 8th, Mio, MI 48647 or drop it in the offering plate. Be sure to include your name and your offering envelope number (if you have one).



The Birth of Our Savior

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

Peace
Charlie Abbott
Betty Baker
Dan Butler
Wade Cannon
Bruce Derrick
Bob Deyarmond
Linda Dupree
Rosemary Fales
Sherry Fletcher
Cindy Grishaber
Mandy Grishaber
Glen & Dawn Hall
Brenda Krug
Gail Powers
Verlene Peters
Tony Robacker
Kay Shumaker
Kim Stitt
Andrea Walz
Avery Walz Simone
Pat Wood
Jay, Maureen & Anna (Rafiki missionaries)

SHUT-INS

At The Brook - Grayling
Marge Bryant

MILITARY

All Armed Forces
Corey Brown
River Grishaber
Whitney Kann

CHRISTMAS MORNING

Emmanuel - God with us, and by your saving grace, God in us.

The way this world celebrates the day of Your birth mostly leaves You out of it. We get so caught up in giving the gifts, we forget the Giver of all good gifts. He gave Himself the most important life giving - life changing gift of all.

How different it would be if we asked You how You would plan Your own birthday celebration, what gifts You would want us to give You. I believe the first gift would be our hearts and lives given to You to love and serve You by serving others. I think the second one would be time with You, sitting in Your Presence getting to know You more intimately. To experience Your amazing love more deeply and in these meetings to be gradually transformed into Your image.

I can see You taking a servant's towel and bending low before each of us to wash away the soil of the world from our feet in the most tender display of love. The example You would set for us, so that we could now be Your hands and feet to those You bring across our path. To kneel low before them and by the example You gave us to wash away the pain, heartache and sense of hopelessness from their hearts and lives, as they discover the most precious gift of all the shedding of Your blood for us on Calvary's tree; so that we could receive new life from You. Let our hearts celebrate Your birth this CHRISTmas and also to celebrate the new birth You sacrificed to give us.

Emmanuel - God with us, and by Your saving grace, God in us.

Submitted by Barbara Butler

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30 AM Worship	29	30	1 1:00 PM Advent Study	2	3	4
5 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Trustees	6	7	8 1:00 PM Advent Study	9	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM UMM	13 7:00 PM Ad Council	14	15 1:00 PM Prayer Bears 1:00 PM Advent Study	16	17	18
19 9:30 AM Worship	20	21	22 1:00 PM Advent Study	23	24 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25
26 9:30 AM Worship	27	28	29	30	31	1