

# **The MESSENGER**

Rev. Michelle Forsyth  
989-826-5521 or 989-903-5264  
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*News from Around the Congregation*

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

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**Hot Chili, Mild Chili & White Chili  
Corn Bread  
Cookies & Cupcakes**

**At**

**MIO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Sponsored by**

**MIO UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**MONDAY**

**November 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**5:00 - 6:30 pm**

**By Donation**

## Hanging the Greens

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! My brothers and sisters, fall is almost over, and you know what that means. Hopefully, the snow will start gently falling, and one morning we will wake up to a winter wonderland. Now, I know some of you would rather not wake up to snow on the ground. Some of you enjoy warmer weather and travel to Florida for the winter. And some of us will stay right here in Michigan and joyfully celebrate another Michigan winter. Yet, wherever we find ourselves, we can all agree there is something wondrous about the Advent Season.

November 28th is the first Sunday of Advent. The first four weeks of December, we prepare for Christ's second coming. And so, we adorn our houses of worship by "hanging the greens." This tradition of adding evergreen plants to our worship spaces started long ago in Europe. The "hanging of the greens" happened on the fourth week of Advent in preparation for Christmas Eve and Christmastide.

Thanks be to God that we continue the meaningful tradition. Evergreens are a symbol of God coming down from heaven to dwell among us as Word made flesh. Evergreens also may be described as a sign of life overcoming and flourishing during the dead of winter, similarly to the resurrection of Christ.

Perhaps this is why I love Michigan winters. Giant evergreens are everywhere. And when they are glistening with snow, we are reminded that God takes our sins and washes them, and we shall be like snow (Isaiah 1:18). Also, evergreens remind us Christ will return, and we will have eternal life in the new creation. Until then, let God fill your heart with peace, hope, love, and joy. And may we join our voices together and venerably sing to the heavens, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!"

Yours in Christ,  
Michelle Forsyth

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*I want to let everyone know how incredibly thankful I am for the love and affirmation I received from all of you on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. I am so grateful God placed me with all of you. I am truly blessed! Thank you for the privilege and honor of being your pastor!*

*Abundant Blessings,  
Pastor Michelle*

**DIRECT \$\$\$\$** now stands at \$35,000.00.  
Keep those Family Fare receipts coming! When we get to \$150,000.00 we will receive another \$1000.

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**ALL SAINTS' DAY**  
**Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Remembering anyone who passed away between Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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**VETERANS' DAY**  
**Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

A time during worship to honor our Veterans. All veterans are encouraged to come and be recognized.

A special offering will be received to be given to Wounded Warriors in honor of our Veterans.

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**GRIEF SHARE**  
**SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS**

**Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:00 – 3:00 pm**  
**at**

**Mio United Methodist Church**

Gathering with others to learn and share about how to survive the holidays while grieving the loss of a loved.

## **A CHANGE IN SCHEDULE**

### **UPCOMING CHARGE CONFERENCE**

**At**  
**Mio United Methodist Church**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021**  
**5:00 pm by Zoom**

**All Members are welcome to attend.**

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**THANKSGIVING IN-GATHERING**  
**Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Non-perishable foods may be brought to worship to help our neighbors in need. The food will be taken to St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church for distribution.**

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**HANGING OF THE GREENS**  
**Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**After worship**

Stay for a while after worship to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas Season. Many hands make quick work of the decorating.

## Missions Committee Report

As I write this Thanksgiving is coming up and Christmas is just 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 and our Adopt-a-Family community program are all about. This is a generous congregation and we can thank God for the Blessings He gives us in return.

Thank you all who are packing the shoeboxes. They will be collected on November 14<sup>th</sup>. This will bless children in the US and in other lands and will also give them an opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ and what a precious gift He is.

Hopefully by Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> or soon after tags will be 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 Warren Stutesman at the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist church and he 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 are the items and sizes, where supplied, of their wish list. Please return your gift with the information attached eg. Family # and the sex age of the recipient you have been Santa for. Please return your gifts to the church by Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The families will also be given a Family Fare gift card so they can purchase some food for their Christmas dinner. Your Advent offering contributes to this gift. Thank you for bringing Christmas joy to those less fortunate and God Bless you.

Joy and Blessings,

Your Mission's Committee

Any questions call Susan Hegel Mission Chm. 989-745-4467

## **TWO BABIES**

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense," said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery, there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us."

The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her, this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 Glen Hall  
13 Carol-Lynn VanNorman  
22 Marlene Gordon  
23 Marge Bryant  
28 Michelle Forsyth

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

8 Ken & Sharon Lantz  
11 Jon & Nancy DeVooght  
24 Don & Ellen Peters

## PRAYER CONCERNS

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

*Families of Gina Slayton, Brynn Bills, Mary Reynolds, David Oetting, Billy Maier, Mark Willett*

## SHUT-INS

*At The Brook - Grayling*  
Marge Bryant  
**MILITARY**

All Armed Forces  
Corey Brown  
River Grishaber  
Whitney Kann

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## Thank you to those who:

- Participated in Laity Sunday service.
- Had leadership roles in 2021.
- Have agreed to serve in leadership roles in 2022.
- Bought some of the 61 pies from the 580 that were sold by our sister church Churchill UMC.
- Brought Halloween candy.
- Volunteer willingly.



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
Otherwise you will be an hour early  
for church.

# November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:50 AM Worship	1	2:00 PM Grief Share	3 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	4	5	6
9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Trustees	7	8 2:00 PM Grief Share	9 8:00 AM Happy Crafters 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	10 8:00 AM Happy Crafters	11 8:00 AM Happy Crafters	12 2:00 PM Surviving the Holidays
9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM UMM	13	14 2:00 PM Grief Share	15 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM Prayer Bears	16 2:00 PM Worship Team	17	18
9:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM In-Gathering 10:45 AM Hanging of Greens	19 6:00 PM UMW	20 2:00 PM Grief Share	21 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	22	23	24
9:30 AM Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30