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The Saltshaker

Broadway United Methodist Church
Pastor Cassie O'Brien Graham
You are the Salt of the Earth—
Matthew 5:13

January
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The Pastor's Pen

As we approach the end of 2020 and look forward to a New Year, I hear many people around me express hope for what 2021 will bring: hope that life will start to resemble some semblance of “normal,” hope to be able to travel by plane or cruise ship, hope to be able to gather with friends and family, hope to be able to share smiles, handshakes, and hugs, hope that a vaccine is coming, hope that newly elected or re-elected officials are being sworn into public office, hope in the days getting longer....

Perhaps, you find hope too in the turning of a new year, or maybe some of what we know is coming brings you worry and anxiety (maybe even some of what is listed above). Maybe you're saying – “I'm not sure I want to take that vaccine, can I really trust it's safe?” or “The person I voted for didn't win, I don't trust the incumbent or newly elected person will pass policies in line with my values.” Maybe travel still causes you anxiety or you feel like life will never be “normal” again. Wherever you are and whatever you are feeling, there is hope.

“Hope” is a churchy word we throw around a lot, but what does it really mean? Hope is more than wishful thinking or simply expecting things will get better. Hope isn't just optimism or looking at the glass half full. Hope – real hope – comes through our faith in Jesus Christ. Desmond Tutu is quoted saying, “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.” Even in times of great darkness, if we believe in the One who came to save us, to show us love and grace, we have hope. In this New Year, I encourage you to look for places of light --- don't let the darkness overwhelm you.

Psalm 62:5-6 tells us ““Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.” Through God, we can have hope that God is with us through every trial and hardship. God will never leave or abandon you, even in isolation. Friends, I don't know what 2021 will bring, but I do have hope in Christ that he will be with me through it all.

Blessings,
Pastor Cassie

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Thursdays at 6:30 PM; Articles for the Saltshaker are always welcome. Thank you.

The Power of Prayer

11-28-20

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers as Bob and I have faced difficult times the last six months. Although the doctors can not believe how well I am doing, I am better. My oxygen levels, as well as blood tests are good. I am walking around the house, out on the deck and in the yard. I think of all of you and so appreciate your caring as we face these difficult times. I know that many of you have also suffered illness, loss, and frustration. Our survival during these trying times is in our caring and concern for each others. I wish for peace for all of us. Thank you so much for making my days brighter!

Bob & Charlotte Atwater
 (Sue Hoover's Sister)
 713 Deerfield St.
 Leavenworth, KS 66048-5542

How do United Methodists celebrate Epiphany/Three Kings Day?

Did you know the word "epiphany" not only means an "a-ha!" moment, but also refers to an ancient church holiday celebrated on January 6? Here you may learn how a single celestially-guided voyage, which led magi to Baby Jesus, was an epiphany for the whole world.

Epiphany is the day Christians remember the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

It occurs on Jan. 6 every year, the 13th day of the Christmas season. The word "epiphany," from the Greek word *epiphania*, means appearance or manifestation.

The arrival of these visitors was a sign that the incarnation of God in Christ had been made known and was recognized by the heavens to the whole world, so that even Gentile wise men from the East came to pay him homage. This is an observance of great majesty, solemnity and awe.

An even more ancient Christian celebration than Christmas, Epiphany originally focused on the nativity, God's incarnation (God made flesh) in the birth of Jesus Christ, and Christ's baptism. After the late fourth century, as Advent developed as a season of baptismal preparation in addition to Lent, Epiphany became associated with baptism. This is why we see images of the three Magi on many older baptismal fonts.

In many Hispanic cultures, Epiphany is a day of great rejoicing and celebration, often kicked off by a parade the night before in which people dressed as the three kings or carrying statues of the three kings pass through the towns and villages throwing out candy and small gifts to all around. Families and children alike look forward to Día de Los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day) as a time for presents, feasting and celebration. Attending church services that include the celebration of communion is also common in many of these cultures, even for those who may not attend worship regularly.

In England and some other European cultures, Jan. 5 is known as Twelfth Night, the culmination of the 12 days of Christmas feasting and partying. On Twelfth Night, many families gather in homes to celebrate with friends, food, singing and gifts. It is at these Twelfth Night celebrations that "Chalking the Door," asking God's blessing on those dwellings and upon all who live there, is most often observed.

In New Orleans, Twelfth Night begins another season of celebrations that comes to fulfillment at Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday). Epiphany itself, Jan. 6, becomes the kickoff day for that season, but is also often observed with a full celebration in church, complete with incense, elaborate processions, choral celebrations, and Eucharist.

Some United Methodists in the United States, who are not part of these rich traditions, tend to recognize Epiphany on the Sunday nearest Jan. 6. There may be a pageant of the three kings as part of worship that day and a small party afterward.

In celebrating Epiphany this year, consider partnering with a Hispanic, Latino or other congregation to find new ways to joyously celebrate Epiphany/Tres Reyes. In whatever ways you decide to celebrate it, remember at the heart of your celebration are the Magi kneeling, worshipping and offering gifts to Jesus, Messiah for all people.

January Birthdays	
4	Bob McCush
4	Matt Clifton
9	Abby Daffron
15	Colin Aebersold
17	Bruce Hageman
21	Johnathan Jeffries
24	Callie Dickerson
24	Stan Hoover
Anniversary	
4	Linda & Russ Brumbaugh

Date	In Person and Virtual Attendance	Average weekly offering for December 2020
12/6	42	\$3439
12/13	36	
12/16	52	Average Offering Needed Per Week \$2900
12/20	43	
12/24	37	
12/27	29	

Sunday Morning Worship

Watch LIVE: We stream our worship service LIVE on Sunday mornings at 10:40 am on Facebook. You do not need to have an account to watch. <https://www.facebook.com/BUMC.PlattsburgMO/>

Watch Later: The online service will be posted to Facebook immediately following for you to view at your convenience. You can also watch the sermon on the church website. plattsburgumc.org

Keeping track of those we connect with is vital to our ministry. If you attend worship Sunday morning online please e-mail, call, or fill out the attendance survey provided each week.

Giving

As we continue to BE THE CHURCH, our mission during these uncertain times is more vital than ever. Your ongoing generosity is necessary for the mission and ministry at Broadway UMC as we continue to serve the local community and beyond. **Please do not tie your giving with your attendance.** I would encourage you to discern how you can continue to give even when we are not in person together and pray if God is calling you to give more as needs expand. To give online via PayPal, visit the church website at <https://plattsburgumc.org/giving>.

Pray without ceasing

Ben Baldwin, Jr.
Betty Shoemaker
Betty Swanson
Brett's Mother in Care Facility Bessie Dickerson
Coby Aebersold
Craig Mattke
Jackie Swanson
Jean Grigsby
Ken's brother Greg Tongue
Kim Tongue's Father Marvin Conant
Mary Goldberg
Peggy Shoemaker
Shirley Boner
Shirley Johnson's son Joseph Johnson
Tanner Sims
Wilma Tippit



January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28 Deliver Meals 8 AM Basement Work	29	30 Deliver Meals	31	1 New Years Day (No Meal Delivery)	2
3 Communion Sunday	4 7:30 PM BUMC Virtual Board Meeting Bob McCush Bday Matt Clifton Bday	5 (4th) Russ & Linda Brumbaugh Anniv.	6	7 AA Meeting @ 6:30 PM	8	9 Abby Daffron Bday
10	11	12	13	14 AA Meeting @ 6:30 PM	15 Collin Aebersold Bday	16
17 Bruce Hageman Bday	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Office closed)	19 Ministerial Alliance	20	21 AA Meeting @ 6:30 PM Johnathan Jeffries Bday	22	23
24 Stan Hoover Bday Callie Dickerson Bday	25	26	27	28 AA Meeting @ 6:30 PM	29	30
31 Celebration Sunday						