

FEBRUARY 2022



The MESSENGER

A publication of Mohawk United Methodist Church



From Our Pastor

Coming Soon: Better!

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. - Jeremiah 29:11-13 (TNIV)

“The best is yet to come!”

Frank Sinatra made that phrase popular when he recorded a song by that name in 1964. “*The best is yet to come*” sentiment can be found in the Bible in many places, from the early chapters of the Old Testament to the final chapters of the New Testament. The Bible, the Word of God that reveals God’s own self to us, is filled with God’s promises for a better future.

But as we continue to live in a time of pandemic, we can get discouraged, dejected, sad, or even hopeless. It can seem like life will never get better. The pandemic seems like it’ll be here forever. *How much longer will it be?!?*

We wouldn’t be alone asking that. Psalmists cry out “How long” to God again and again. Isaiah asks it in frustration to an angel. Jeremiah asks it of the Lord in anguish. *How long, Lord? How long? (Psalm 6:3)*

One question I’m being asked is about what will happen to Mohawk Church in the next year or so. Those are the times I wish I could see the future to give a precise answer,

but that’s something only God can see. What I can see, however, are hints. Clues. Signs that bring me hope of better days to come.

Did you know that our congregation gave more in 2021 than we did in 2020? Yep, we did because we are a people of hope. A people who knows God’s not done with us yet. A people who knows we are a key part of God’s plan of salvation.

Plus, we are making good plans for this year and beyond. Our newly formed Outreach Committee, combining the former Missions and Evangelism committees, is coming up with some really cool ideas and plans for this year! (More on that another time.) Trustees, Finance, and Worship committees, to name just a few other groups, are making plans for good things to happen in 2022 as well.

I believe the best IS yet to come. Through our prayerful planning, diligence, and work, God will lead us into His future, a future FILLED with hope!

His,
Pastor Kerry

Are You Ready For Lent?

Lent is coming! Lent, the 40-day period of preparation to celebrate Easter's joy, begins on Ash Wednesday. This year, Ash Wednesday is on March 2. We will begin Lent with an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00pm. Prior to that, we will have a drive-thru opportunity like we did last year, for those who would rather not worship in the sanctuary that night. Lent concludes with Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday on April 10. We'll have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services that week, ending with Easter on April 17. We're planning on a sunrise service followed by a delicious breakfast, ending with a joyous Easter worship service at our normal 9:00am time. Be sure to put these dates on your calendar. You won't want to miss out!

Inclement Weather Closings/Delays

'Tis the season for hazardous weather. In the event of weather-related closings or delays of worship services, the announcement will be on local TV stations as early as possible. Tune in to Channel 13-WTHR (NBC) and Channel 59-WXIN (FOX, CBS-4), which may not be the actual station number, depending on your cable/streaming service, so check your local listings. (Should other kinds of meetings

deem cancelling, you will be notified by the committee/team chairperson or group leader.) We will also get the word out about worship service cancellations via email and Facebook, plus by phone for those who are not online. Since weather can vary greatly, it may still be unsafe where you are even if the church does remain open. Please use your best judgment to ensure your family's safety.

COVID-19 Updated Guidelines

Due to the current rise in COVID-19 cases across the county, the Ad Council met January 9 to determine how best to adjust our guidelines. In the discussion, it was affirmed our situation is significantly different than a year ago. The majority of us are now fully vaccinated and also boosted. While still causing major health issues and even death, the symptoms of those with immunity are much less severe. COVID-19 is still extremely contagious, but the

number of hospitalizations is down significantly. With regard to these considerations it was decided that masks will be **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**, but still optional. Social distancing is also **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**, but not mandatory. As always, alternate worship options are available if you are not comfortable with the new guidelines.

Finance Update

It is a blessing to report that the 2021 General Offering was up \$6,800 over last year. This helped us to do a few major needed repairs (shelter house siding and bell tower repair) and allowed us to increase the Conference tithe. December net income (income less expenses) was \$13,034. This was the best month of the year! Thank you all for your hard work, dedication and commitment to our church!

-Finance committee

Mohawk United Methodist Church Finances

	2021												2020	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year to Date	Year to Date
Income:														
General Offering	11,940	13,048	14,662	9,150	14,462	8,489	9,907	9,472	8,810	17,115	7,916	23,703	148,673	141,899
Other	1,201	735	414	5,140	1,156	267	1,815	263	155	293	4,158	3,054	18,651	30,834
Total Income	13,141	13,783	15,076	14,290	15,618	8,755	11,722	9,735	8,965	17,408	12,074	26,757	167,324	172,733
Expenses:														
Tithe	-	2,874	-	2,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,624	3,529
Utilities	2,092	947	1,564	745	725	1,771	787	945	878	694	1,115	1,721	13,984	12,655
Other	397	743	1,643	10,930	8,603	1,044	1,440	766	11,193	1,478	1,226	1,594	41,058	24,183
Wages	8,356	8,700	9,187	9,518	14,422	9,784	9,640	9,589	9,831	9,548	14,639	10,409	123,623	117,881
Total Expenses	10,844	13,264	12,395	23,943	23,751	12,599	11,868	11,300	21,902	11,720	16,980	13,724	184,289	158,248
Net Income (Loss)	2,296	519	2,682	(9,653)	(8,133)	(3,843)	(146)	(1,565)	(12,937)	5,688	(4,906)	13,034	(16,965)	14,485



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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February 2022

Continued in February

JC
MASTER'S CLASSES