



DECEMBER 2021



The MESSENGER



From Our Pastor

A publication of Mohawk United Methodist Church

MERRY THANKS-MAS

We've passed Thanksgiving and are now headed towards Christmas and New Year's. It may be the most wonderful time of the year, but I think it's also the most busy. Because this season is so busy, I want to take the time right now to tell you something that never goes out of season: *Thank you.*

Thank you for hanging in there during the COVID-19 pandemic. The last 20-plus months have certainly been trying for us all, yet we are still worshipping, still loving God and loving others, and still being Mohawk Church.

Thank you for supporting the ministries and mission work we cherish together as a congregation. Mohawk Church was and is about bringing the Light of Christ into a dark world through our words and through our actions. If you didn't think we did much this past year, watch the short "Being The Church In 2021" video on our Viral Church Channel and be pleasantly surprised.

Thank you for financing the ministries and mission of Mohawk UMC. We started the year strong but began to falter in the spring. October giving shows that we can finish the year strong and enter 2022 in good financial shape. You have shown me many times just how generous a congregation we are and I'm thankful for that.

Thank you for bearing with me this past year...or two. They don't teach you how to be

a pastor during a pandemic! I've done my very best to keep us connected, keep us worshipping, keep inventing and re-inventing what we can do together, and overall keep us being The Church the very best I possibly could. Sometimes things worked out better than others, and at times folks felt differently about what I thought was the best way to proceed. Through it all and through my fatigue, I always did my best in every aspect of ministry for everyone's benefit and to the glory of God.

As I write this, I'm starting to feel a little tiny bit like the Apostle Paul must have felt when he wrote: *I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.* - 2 Timothy 1:3 (NIV)

Like Paul, I am thankful for you, and I thank God for you in my prayers. We have been called together by God's grace so that we can continue the holy work to which we have been called. Thank you, and thanks be to God!

My hopes and prayers are that 2022 will be a much better year than 2021 in many ways. I look forward to serving alongside you next year, as we shine Christ's light in the darkness and as we make disciples of Jesus Christ in 2022.

His,
Pastor Kerry

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Friday, December 24
6:00 pm &
11:00 pm

Come join us!

TEMPORARY OFFICE HOURS

Through the month of December, our office hours will be slightly different. The church will still be open on Thursdays, but approximately 1:30-4:30pm, as Gail Stanley fills in while Carolyn is rehabbing from a surgery. Please keep her in your prayers for a speedy recovery, and be sure to call before coming in to ensure someone is available to help you. Contact Pastor Kerry if you need church access outside of these hours.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

For Christmas Eve this year, our Worship Committee has confirmed that we will have two services on Christmas Eve.

The earlier service will be at **6:00pm**, and will be a kid-friendly service. It will have a special Children's Message, nursery and child care, and both battery-operated as well as real candles for when Silent Night is sung.

The later service will be at **11:00pm**, and will continue our

tradition of ending the service just as Christmas Day arrives. There will not be child care or a Children's Message at this service. We will sing carols, ending with Silent Night by candle light.

At **both** services, a special Christmas offering will be taken. This will be evenly divided between our Bishop's special Christmas offering for Indiana children and the Hancock County Food Pantry.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Each year, our Indiana Annual Conference supports The Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children, which is divided to meet the needs of the following ministries:

- Impact 2818, the Indiana Conference camping ministry
- The 3 Indiana United Methodist-related children and youth homes
- Local outreach projects
- United Methodist advance projects

- Bishops's fund for emergency children's projects and the promotion of this offering

There will be an opportunity to give toward this ministry during both of our Christmas Eve services.



FINANCE UPDATE

MOHAWK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FINANCES

	2021										2020	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	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	117,054	119,108
Other	1,201	735	414	5,140	1,156	267	1,815	263	155	293	11,439	28,242
Total Income	13,141	13,783	15,076	14,290	15,618	8,755	11,722	9,735	8,965	17,408	128,493	147,350
Expenses:												
Tithe	-	2,499	-	2,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,249	11,075
Utilities	2,092	947	1,564	745	725	1,771	787	945	878	694	11,148	10,943
Other	397	1,118	1,643	10,930	8,603	1,044	1,440	766	11,193	1,478	38,613	19,997
Wages	8,356	8,700	9,187	9,518	14,422	9,784	9,640	9,589	9,831	9,548	98,576	95,392
Total Expenses	10,844	13,264	12,395	23,943	23,751	12,599	11,868	11,300	21,902	11,720	153,585	137,407
Net Income (Loss)	2,296	519	2,682	(9,653)	(8,133)	(3,843)	(146)	(1,565)	(12,937)	5,688	(25,092)	9,943

PIZZA PROFITS

Missions will be able to donate to two international organizations using profits from the pizza sales. First, to Heifer International, with the purchase of 15 flocks of chickens. Each flock will provide eggs and protein for nourishment, boost income through sale of extra

eggs and offspring, and ensure financial security for generations through passing on of the gift. Second, to Samaritan's Purse, with monetary donations that will provide 43 school-aged children a week's worth of hot meals prepared in Jesus' name.

HOPE HOUSE & JOURNEY BAGS

Thank you church, you did it again! We filled **TWO CARLOADS** to the brim. One for Hope House, and one for Journey Bags. Both organizations were very grateful when the items were delivered. Thank you for giving generously!

MIDWEST MISSIONS

Since our last trip to Midwest Missions (two years ago) we have completed 161 one-handed school bags and 16 extra straps. We will be delivering the bags the week after Thanksgiving. Thanks for all your help in making the bags.

CHRISTMAS CARD EXPRESS

Be sure to take advantage of the Christmas card delivery service offered by our Mohawk Youth. Baskets for your cards are provided in the Fellowship Hall, and will be promptly delivered for you! Tips are appreciated!

December Birthdays

- 2 Emily Lovi ns
- 4 Jaksen Cai n
- 6 Bro dy Steeno
- 9 Donna Cai n
- 10 Jeff Bri cker
- 14 Madison Tunny
- 21 Ramona Bennett
- 27 Layne Ewi ng
- 29 Bryson Plank
- 30 Janet Bearhope
Walker Addison

Anniversaries

- 4 Tim & Donna Cain
- 7 Robert & Laura Phares
- 12 Rick & Susan Edwards
- 21 Bill & Lorraine Ewing
- 27 Bob & Debi Lane

If you notice that a birthday or anniversary is missing, please contact someone in the office so that we can be sure to include them for the next year. We appreciate your help to keep our records accurate!



WANTED - SONG LEADERS

As we continue returning to a more normal situation in church, the Worship Committee will be trying to reestablish a rotation of song leaders in worship. We will need five people to each take one week a month (ex: the second Sundays) to be the Song Leader that Sunday. If this is something you are interested in, please contact Dan Bauer, Leanne Dix, or Pastor Kerry

ADVENT CALENDAR 2021

You will find included with the newsletter a custom-made Advent calendar to use this year. Use it at home, with your family, or with other loved ones as a way to prepare your heart for Christmas and the coming of the Christ child. Each day has some small, simple action you can do to spread Christmas cheer. Try it; you'll like it!

A NON-ADVENT ADVENT STUDY

Pastor Kerry will lead a most unusual Advent Bible study this year - because it will be held *AFTER* Christmas! He felt adding a Bible study during one of the busiest times of the year would be harder for people to attend than after the holidays are over.

“AFTER THE MANGER” will begin in January and study events that came immediately after Christ was born, as found in the Gospels. Watch here or our Mid-Week Announcements for details on this intriguing Bible study as we get closer.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Church *undecorating* will take place Sunday, January 9 after Sunday School. Plan to stay and help!

NEW LEADERS FOR 2022-24

We have a new list of members for all our standing Mohawk Church committees. Most members are the same, but there are some new ones, too. Notably, the former Evangelism and Missions committees are now combined into the new Outreach Committee, as there was a large amount of overlap. Be sure to welcome our new leaders who start the first of the year.

Mohawk UMC Leadership 2022-2024

<p>Nominations Team Meets as needed/called *KERRY O'BRIEN, CHAIR Class of 2021-22 Mike Stanley Megan Addison Class of 2022-23 Tammy Bearhope Sandy Plank Class of 2023-24 Rhonda Beeker Leanne Dix</p>	<p>Children's Ministries Team Meets as needed/called *LYNNE O'BRIEN, CHAIR Sun. Sch. Coordinator: Robert Phares Nursery Coord: MUMC Admin. Asst. Youth Coordinators: Burl Bearhope Leslie Dalton VBS Coordinators: Megan Addison Jenny Musselman</p>	<p><i>Evangelism Team is now combined with Missions and called "Outreach"</i> ##### Outreach Team (formerly Missions) 2nd Mondays, odd mos. Class of 2021-22 Nikki Ward Virginia Hartzog Class of 2022-23 Chris Gray Sherry Apple Class of 2023-24 Connie Wilson *SUSAN EDWARDS, CHAIR</p>	<p>Trustees 1st Tuesdays, odd months Class of 2021-22 Leisa Harmon Chuck Dix *BRUCE BEEKER, CHAIR Class of 2022-23 Tim Plank Mike Schenck (Vice Chair) Dwight Ramsey (Sec'y) Class of 2023-24 Tim Cain Bob Lane Jeff Addison</p>	<p>*Administrative Council 3rd Thurs, odd months Council Chair MIKE STANLEY Council Secretary Gail Stanley Lay Leader Robert Phares Lay Delegate to 2022 Annual Conference Myra Williams Rev. Kerry O'Brien Debi Lane, Finance Rick Edwards, Treasurer Bruce Beeker, Trustees Michelle Bricker, SPRC Susan Edwards, Outreach Myra Williams, Care Leanne Dix, Worship Lynne O'Brien, Kid's Min.</p>
<p>Finance Team 2nd Thurs, odd Months Class of 2021-22 Diana Hartzog Laura Phares (Sec'y) Class of 2022-23 TBD Class of 2023-24 *DEBI LANE, CHAIR Kelly Paugh Treasurer *Rick Edwards Trustees Rep TBD in January 2022 Historian TBD</p>	<p>Care Team Meets in January & as needed *MYRA WILLIAMS, CHAIR Funeral Dinners: Rhonda Beeker, Laura Phares Prayer Chain: Janet Bearhope, Ann Friar Flowers: Tammy Bearhope College Min.: Rhonda Beeker Class of 2021-22 Leanne Dix Marge Credille Class of 2022-23 Lillian Kissel Donna Cain Class of 2023-24 Myra Williams Denise Phares</p>	<p>Staff/Pastor Parish Relations (SPRC) 3rd Monday, odd months Class of 2021-22 Gail Stanley Janet Bearhope Class of 2022-23 Terry Ramsey Tim Plank Class of 2023-24 Armin Apple *MICHELLE BRICKER, CHR Standing Members Myra Williams-Lay Deleg. Robert Phares - Lay Leader</p>	<p>Worship Team 2nd Tues, odd months Class of 2021-22 TBD Ashley Schenck Class of 2022-23 Burl Bearhope, Comm. steward Dan Bauer Class of 2023-24 Jim/Amy Lovins Jonathan Lovins Standing Members *LEANNE DIX, CHAIR Ashley Schenck Tim Plank Myra Williams</p>	<p>- KEY - Green highlight = Chair Blue Highlight = Info TBD = To Be Determined * = Ad. Council member</p>



An asterisk (*) before a name indicates a member of our Administrative Council

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." --Psalm 127:1



MOHAWK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Greenfield, IN 46140

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Return Service Requested

The MESSENGER

December 2021

Join us **Sunday's at 9am** for
A New Advent Series

