



December 2023

**MOHAWK**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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THE MESSENGER

[From Our Pastor]

THE A-B-C'S OF ADVENT

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." -- Luke 1:28-33 (TNIV)

Sometimes I use Google to find answers. I was doing that recently, and decided to see what it would say when I typed "Advent" in. The results were interesting.

When I typed "Advent" in, followed by the letter A, Google finished that word with Activities. Advent Activities is so true! Advent, the church's season to prepare for the Christmas birth of Jesus, is chock full of activities. Too often, it's *over*-full of activities. Perhaps now is the time to think about what activities are truly important that you will opt to do, and what activities just are not worth your time and effort.

When I typed "Advent" followed by B, Google's first suggestion was Advent Beginnings. Advent actually means beginning! Do we take time to reflect on the beginning of Advent, when Mary pondered in her heart what the angel's announcement meant? Take a moment to read Luke 1:26-38. What did it mean to Mary? What does it mean to you?

Typing "Advent" and C, Google suggested Advent Candles. Candles at Advent gain special significance. I can still recall as a boy lighting Advent candles each week. Lighting candles on Christmas Eve while singing Silent Night is always a highlight for me. What about you? What significance do candles at Advent and Christmas have for you? For your family?

Advent is a special time for followers of Jesus Christ. We celebrate His birth on Christmas, and we prepare for His coming during the Advent season. The season of preparing for Christmas is the actual definition of Advent, by the way. And Advent Definition was also Google's first suggestion when I typed in "Advent D."

Coincidence? Bah, humbug! It seems more like a *God*-incidence to me.

Have a very merry, safe, and blessed Christmas this year! May all your holidays be happy, healthy, and filled with Christ's love.

His,
Pastor Kerry

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

OUR FAMILY ADVENT-URE will be December 3 during Sunday school. It will be a fun time for families to enjoy time for Advent.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT will be during the 9:00am service on December 24. Practices are during Sunday School.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE & GROW IN DECEMBER

We need Greeters, Song Leaders, Liturgists, Sound-room techs (you will be trained!), and Children's Church leaders. December has many openings. Click the link to sign up: [Muhawk United Methodist Church: MUMC Worship Opportunities To Serve \(signupgenius.com\)](http://Muhawk United Methodist Church: MUMC Worship Opportunities To Serve (signupgenius.com)) or sign up at church.



CURRENT SERMON SERIES



Pastor Kerry has an interesting new sermon series. "Questions of Christmas" looks at the deep questions that were asked in the Christmas story. How do these questions apply to today? Be sure to come for this thoughtful series, and invite others to join you.

UPCOMING ADVENT/HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



The 4 Sundays of Advent are Dec 3, 10, 17, and 24
Christmas Eve services 6pm (Kids, Carols, and Candles)
11pm (Carols and Candle Light),
A unique **New Year's Eve morning service** on 12/31/23

STAFF PARISH COMMITTEE NEWS We now have a new Administrative Assistant!

Karen Ginther is a retired teacher from Indianapolis Public Schools, and an administrative assistant from New Palestine High School. She is married and lives in Greenfield, Indiana. Karen is a member of Cross of Grace Lutheran Church in New Pal.





- 2 Emily Lovins
- 6 Brody Steeno
- 9 Donna Cain
- 12 Jeff Bricker
- 14 David Brown (Marcia's husband)
- 21 Ramona Bennett
- 25 Brooks Schenck
- 30 Janet Bearhope, Walker Addison

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

NOTE: If you see anyone missing from our birthday or anniversary list, or inaccurate dates listed, please contact the office at mohawkumc@gmail.com.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

Mohawk United Methodist Church Finances												
	2023											2022
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Year to Date	Year to Date
Income:												
General Offering	19,758	15,558	11,549	14,286	9,422	8,289	12,808	9,751	8,522	15,327	125,271	127,508
Other	553	8,391	989	796	908	332	1,113	363	2,847	181	16,474	6,060
Total Income	20,311	23,949	12,538	15,082	10,330	8,621	13,921	10,114	11,369	15,508	141,744	133,568
Expenses:												
Tithe	2,272	1,789	1,328	1,643	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,032	4,813
Utilities	1,931	2,321	551	758	849	1,569	639	763	877	578	10,836	12,627
Other	1,054	670	1,453	2,886	10,985	3,002	2,585	4,015	5,444	1,613	33,705	20,415
Wages	9,635	9,864	9,841	9,523	13,346	9,029	9,239	8,841	8,994	13,170	101,483	108,634
Total Expenses	14,892	14,644	13,173	14,811	25,179	13,600	12,463	13,620	15,315	15,361	153,057	146,489
Net Income (Loss)	5,419	9,306	(635)	272	(14,850)	(4,979)	1,459	(3,505)	(3,946)	147	(11,313)	(12,920)

CONFERENCE NEWS

Our Indiana Bishop, Julius C Trimble, will be retiring in September 2024.

The General Conference that has been delayed several times is scheduled to take place April 23 to May 3, 2024. The official website for information is resourceumc.org. If you scroll down to the bottom of the page in the CHURCHWIDE section, select General Conference 2020. This is where you should go for information not depend on someone else's interpretation.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

Thank you for participating in the pizza fundraiser. We made \$465 and sent \$500 to Forest UMC to assist with Gorette's jaw reconstruction surgery and recovery fees. She had a successful surgery and is healing nicely. She'll return home on 11/29/23. Please continue to pray for Gorette and her family. Her updated GoFundMe link is <https://go.fund.me/f2fac560> if you wish to donate or share her story.



FOOD PANTRY "COMPETITION"

Our friendly competition ends December 3 between *Fortville Area Resource Ministry (FARM)* and *Hancock County Food Pantry*. The winner and the total amount raised will be announced before the service on December 10.

HELP PEOPLE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Will you reach out to help others find Jesus with us? Join us as we celebrate Christmas at the Heartland Resort, THIS Sunday, at 4:00pm. If you will help, come at 3:30pm. We also need a few plates of Christmas cookies. Please give those to Pastor Kerry Sunday morning.



THE AUCTION RETURNS



We're gearing up for our big ANNUAL AUCTION! This February 18, we will once again hold our auction in our Fellowship Hall. We need our whole congregation to pitch in to make it work well! Our Finance Committee is asking that every Mohawk Church household donate at least one item that could be auctioned for \$50 or more. (It could be handmade/homemade food or crafts, working vehicles or home/farm machinery, gift baskets, toys and games, etc. *New or gently used, please.*) We also need help getting the items organized and ready for the auction, as well as people who will help with the auction itself. If you're able to help, please see Debi Lane.

Like last year, there will also be a pitch-in meal from 11:00am until the auction begins at Noon. We'll also need help with it. Please start thinking now how you will participate in this fun and profitable fund raiser. *Thank you.*