



# The MESSENGER

From Our Pastor

A publication of Mohawk United Methodist Church



## DON'T GROW MY CHURCH!

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - The Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)*

Happy New Year!

In 2021, we endured a global pandemic. All of us. Nobody was unaffected. Life was different in just about every way. Church was, too.

It should come as no surprise that our attendance was down overall in 2021, and so was our overall giving. Yet even as the pandemic continues, our attendance is currently going up as well as our giving. Still, there are some worried people, folks concerned about what will become of Mohawk Church.

Some well-meaning ones told me we need to grow our church. They were surprised when I told them I won't do that. I understand what they want, but that's not the right approach. I've contended for a long time that efforts to "grow our church" will fail and likely backfire.

Think of this scenario: A friend approaches you and says they are part of a great health club, but it's failing.

They are desperate for you to join so you will pay your monthly dues and maybe keep it from closing. Would you join this faltering club or would you run the other way? If it were me, I'd be running!

I believe the right approach is to offer the one thing only The Church can offer - a relationship with Jesus Christ and with people who love Jesus. We can disciple others, help them into a deepening relationship with Jesus and His People, which they need. Doing that also helps us become better disciples, by the way.

We need to take our mission statement, "Making disciples of Jesus Christ," seriously. It's a great and perfectly aimed statement. We can make better disciples of ourselves, which helps us make disciples of people who are hurt, lost, lonely, unchurched, forgotten - all those who need Jesus and His People in their lives.

When we make disciples, our church will grow because it's the power of God at work. If we try to grow the church, we won't. So I say, don't grow my church! Instead, let's make disciples together so Christ's church will grow!

His,  
*Pastor Kerry*

## January Committee Meeting Dates

- 4 Trustees
- 9 Care Team
- 10 Outreach Team
- 11 Worship Team
- 13 Finance Team
- 17 SPRC
- 20 Ad Council

All Committees meet at 6:30pm, except Care Team, which will meet at 10:15am.



- 1 Connie Wilson
- 2 Elaine Cox
- 3 Lucinda Blair
- 5 Ed Clark
- 9 Alyssa Cain
- 13 Ainsley Martin
- 14 Michelle Bricker
- 16 Robert Phares
- 17 Armin Apple
- 21 Katie Hooker  
Kaitlyn Hartzog  
Susan Edwards
- 24 Greg Cain  
Eve Martin
- 25 Rick Hershman
- 29 Dan Bauer
- 30 Shelley Vail
- 31 Robert Jackson

\*There are currently no January anniversaries

## A NON-ADVENT ADVENT STUDY

Pastor Kerry will lead a Bible study this month, all four Wednesdays of January, over Zoom. It's an unusual Advent study because it's being held *AFTER* Christmas! You still have time to join this "AFTER THE MANGER" Bible study. It will look at the events that came immediately after Christ was

born, as found in the Gospels. You only need your favorite Bible and the ability to access Zoom. If you want to take part, contact Pastor Kerry immediately and let him know. He will give you the login information so you can be part of this study.

## SONG LEADERS NEEDED

The Worship Committee would like to reestablish a weekly rotation of song leaders in worship. Five volunteers are needed so that each person takes one week a month (ex: the second Sundays of each month) to be the Song Leader that Sunday.

You will have the opportunity to pick the first two "Singing Our Praise" hymns for your week. If you want to try this, or if it is something you are interested in doing, please contact Leanne Dix or Pastor Kerry right away. Thanks!



**UPDATE**  
CONTACT INFORMATION

We will soon be updating and printing new church directories. Please assist us in making sure we have accurate contact information by forwarding any changes, including the addition of family members, to the church office. We appreciate your help!

## FINANCE UPDATE

Mohawk United Methodist Church Finances

	2021											2020	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Year to Date	Year to Date
<b>Income:</b>													
General Offering	11,940	13,048	14,662	9,150	14,462	8,489	9,907	9,472	8,810	17,115	7,916	124,970	132,094
Other	1,201	735	414	5,140	1,156	267	1,815	263	155	293	4,158	15,597	28,998
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>13,141</b>	<b>13,783</b>	<b>15,076</b>	<b>14,290</b>	<b>15,618</b>	<b>8,755</b>	<b>11,722</b>	<b>9,735</b>	<b>8,965</b>	<b>17,408</b>	<b>12,074</b>	<b>140,567</b>	<b>161,092</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>													
Title	-	2,874	-	2,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,624	11,075
Utilities	2,092	947	1,564	745	725	1,771	787	945	878	694	1,115	12,263	11,820
Other	397	743	1,643	10,930	8,603	1,044	1,440	766	11,193	1,478	1,226	39,464	20,930
Wages	8,356	8,700	9,187	9,518	14,422	9,784	9,640	9,589	9,831	9,548	14,639	113,214	108,892
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10,844</b>	<b>13,264</b>	<b>12,395</b>	<b>23,943</b>	<b>23,751</b>	<b>12,599</b>	<b>11,868</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>21,902</b>	<b>11,720</b>	<b>16,980</b>	<b>170,565</b>	<b>152,716</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>2,296</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>2,682</b>	<b>(9,653)</b>	<b>(8,133)</b>	<b>(3,843)</b>	<b>(146)</b>	<b>(1,565)</b>	<b>(12,937)</b>	<b>5,688</b>	<b>(4,906)</b>	<b>(29,998)</b>	<b>8,376</b>



**MOHAWK**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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## **Sunday's in January**

**JC**

**MASTER'S CLASSES**