

THE MESSENGER

A Publication of Mohawk United Methodist Church

December 2020

FROM OUR PASTOR

Advent! It means a *beginning*. The start or arrival of some person, thing, or event of note. For us, Advent starts the Christian calendar year. Advent begins the new Christian year as a period of preparation for Christmas.

Theologically, Advent is the coming of Christ. Of Emmanuel, God with us.

When you receive this newsletter, we will be fully into the season of Advent, when we prepare our hearts to once again welcome Jesus into our lives.

This year, however, it will all be different than any of us have ever experienced. With some of the highest levels of COVID-19 since the pandemic began, we can't do things the same way we've done them in the past.

Rather than regretting what we won't be able to do this year because of the pandemic, let me ask you one very important question this year:

How ***will*** you celebrate the coming of Christ this Christmas?

For this Advent and Christmas to be joy filled, we need to think about what we can and will do instead of what we cannot and won't do. We have to see what resources we have to work with, find the boundaries within which we can work, and plan ways to make Advent and Christmas filled with joy.

It is a process I'm guessing we've all been doing for most of the year, and this Advent is no different. Instead of relying on time tested and well-loved traditions, we have to do things differently now. Maybe not everything, maybe not even a lot of things, but at least a few things will have to be done differently.

Our Worship Committee and I are working together to hold a joy-filled Christmas Eve worship service this year. It won't be like past years, without a doubt. But it most certainly will joyfully celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ.

That, friends, is truly what Christmas is about. The "how" will have to change some in 2020, but the "why" of Christmas never will change. The pandemic will go, but God will stay. Those are "tidings of comfort and joy"!

In the opening chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, verses 22-23 say, "*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means 'God with us').'*"

God IS with us! Let's celebrate Advent and Christmas in the best and most joy-filled ways we can this year. Christ came to us and God is still with us!

Have a joy-filled Advent and a merry Christmas,

Pastor Kerry

ONLINE-ONLY WORSHIP THROUGH YEAR'S END:

Our Administrative Council voted on  November 19 to pause in-person worship services through the end of 2020 due to the pandemic. The Ad Council will meet again December 17 to review the situation to see if any changes need to be made looking ahead.

Meanwhile, join in worship every Sunday at our usual 9:00AM worship time on the *Viral Church Channel*.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP PLANS:

Our preliminary plans have been revised for Christmas Eve at Mohawk Church. Because of COVID-19, we decided to hold only one worship service on December 24. It will be at 7:00pm.



New plans are not yet finalized, but there will be some sort of interactive way for

people to worship at (but not IN) the church, weather permitting. Please be sure to watch for details to come in the first two weeks of December.

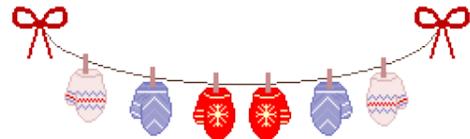


OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX "THANK YOU"

Mohawk Church never ceases to amaze me. With all the donations, we were able to OVERSTUFF 117 shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse. What an AMAZING JOB!! Thanks for all the donations. -- Leslie Dalton & the Missions Team

HATS AND MITTENS:

Donation deadline for hats and mittens is December 13. We are getting very close to the quantity we need. If you would like to make a cash donation, we have people willing to do some shopping. Thanks for helping with this mission.



CORNERSTONE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS:

Mohawk Church is sponsoring a site again this year. Please come check it out Dec 4-6, 11-13, and 18-20 from 6 to 10 pm Friday & Saturday, and 6 to 9pm on Sundays. If you would like to volunteer one or more nights, talk to Leslie Dalton, Burl Bearhope, or Rene Creed.



Also, mark your calendar for Sunday, Dec 13, as our own Angela Rodgers will be providing the entertainment at the campground. Mohawk

UMC is sponsoring free cookies and hot chocolate that same night. We would like a few members of the church to greet the visitors in the heated café and let them know a little more about our "little church that DOES."



THE SALVATION ARMY:

Go online and sign up to ring a bell for one of Salvation Army's familiar Red Kettles in a location near you. Use this sign-up link:



<https://www.registertoring.com/default.aspx>



DOING THE MOST GOOD

The Salvation Army is also able to accept online donations. Use the following link to make your donation, maybe even under the name of someone you know (like Leslie Dalton!)

https://donate.salvationarmyindiana.org/campaign/hancock-county-virtual-kettle-campaign/c305351?c_src=DIVRCPage



SCRIP CARDS:

Even though we are not meeting in person on Sunday, you can still get Scrip cards from Leslie Dalton at 317-341-3300. She can order the cards for you, that are not in stock, usually arriving in about a week. She is also able to coordinate with you to deliver your cards.



PLASTIC CAPS FOR BENCHES:

The final count is in and we collected enough for FOUR benches. So, we are done collecting caps, but the fundraising part is still going on. We still need to collect \$250 before we order the next two benches (sometime this spring). Thanks for all your support!



Merry Christmas



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND GROW IN DECEMBER:

We will only need a Liturgist and a Sound Room Tech for this month.

- Song Leader/Liturgist/Acolytes
- Sound Room Tech

Click the link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4caba923a0fe3-mumc>

