

THE MESSENGER

2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A Publication of Mohawk United Methodist Church

[From Our Pastor]

WHAT A YEAR!

Happy New Year to you and yours!

Oh, and good riddance, 2020. (Am I the only one thinking that?!?)

Wow, what a year 2020 was! At the start of the year, I was thinking I'd be making jokes about 20/20 vision throughout the year. That and almost everything else changed drastically the middle of March. As the year ground on, we made many, many changes. We adapted. We coped. We managed.

So, we made changes that we needed to make and did things in new and unfamiliar ways. We did things differently because we had to. We distanced ourselves because we wanted to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. We did this, sometimes grudgingly, because we knew it was right. We knew we had to keep the welfare of others in its proper place. And so, we kept living life, just in new and different ways.

We also learned a lot in the months since March. We learned that Pandemic Fatigue is a real thing. We realized that being our "brother's keeper" wasn't always easy even though it was what we Christians are called to do. We learned that we are more resilient than we first believed. We learned how to bake bread!

One thing that became very evident to me is that God made us as social beings. We are meant to be in connection to one another. Being virtually connected is acceptable for our times, but it runs a distant second to authentic presence. As an old phone company ad said, it's the next best thing to being there.

Authentic presence. *Real* presence. It's what we need as humans. And real presence is also what God offers us in Jesus Christ. We just celebrated Christmas, when God really came to earth as one of us. In the Christ child, we see God's real presence. He would be the Immanuel, the God-with-us Savior we need. The prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled in Him. Matthew's Gospel quotes Isaiah as it says in chapter 1, verses 22-23: ***"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")."***

We still aren't out of the woods with the pandemic yet. But God sees our plight. He knows and understands our struggles. And He is with us in it! As we continue to do what we must do, remember that God IS with us still.

May we all have a blessed and safe, new year, by the grace of God.
Pastor Kerry

ONLINE-ONLY WORSHIP...

FOR NOW:

Our Administrative Council voted on December 17 to pause in-person worship services until we feel it is safe once again.

We will continue to live-stream worship services through our



Viral Church Channel on YouTube.

The Ad Council will meet again in January 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*.

COFFEE, CONVERSATION, AND B.Y.O.D:

One thing a lot of us miss is the time after worship services to socialize with one another. The donuts were good, but the time together was even better.



New plans are not quite finalized, but Pastor Kerry will be setting up in January a way we can virtually enjoy each other's conversation after worship services. He will set up a time on Zoom on Sunday mornings when we can come together virtually to just chat, to catch up. To socialize. Although you will have to Bring Your Own Donuts if you still want donuts, the opportunity to once again enjoy one another will be provided.

Watch for details in upcoming MOHAWK UMC UPDATE emails from Pastor Kerry.



THANK YOU!

We would like to thank so many of you for the cards, gifts, and warm Christmas wishes. We treasure each and every one. We feel so blessed to be here and look forward to a new--and better--year ahead. ~~

Pastor Kerry and Lynne O'Brien



SCRIP CARDS FUND MISSIONS:

Even though we are not meeting in person on Sundays, you can still get Scrip cards from Leslie Dalton at 317-341-3300. See what we have in stock or order the cards you want. The cards we don't have in stock, usually come in a week.

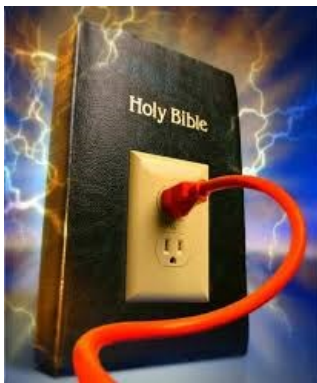


NEW SERMON SERIES:

“Top Tens” will start January 3. This new sermon series will begin by challenging you to learn the 10 Commandments in 10 minutes, with Pastor Kerry’s help, of course. Be sure to tune in!



UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL:



Pick up the January/February issue at the church starting January 3. Please call the office before coming.

Stay connected to the Lord!

PARK BENCH UPDATE:



We are done collecting caps, having collected enough for FOUR benches. We still need to collect \$250 for this final bench. Please give if you are able. Thank you! ~

the Mohawk Missions Team



SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN:

This year’s campaign has surpassed the giving amounts of the last few years, boosting the collected amount above \$45,000!



DOING THE MOST GOOD



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