



Pastor: Rev. Gunsoo Jung
Church Office Secretary:
Carol Luce
Phone: 517-486-4040
Pastor's Phone: 515-250-6456

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

January 2021 Newsletter

Imitate Jesus Christ

Every year, people start the New Year by making resolutions. There are a variety of New Year's resolutions that people make. Here are the statistics of the typical New Year's resolutions: 47% are about developing themselves or learning something new about themselves, 38% are about weight loss, 34% are money related, and 31% are relationship related. And out of those resolutions, 39% of the people are in their 20s and 14% of the people are in their 50s or older. As the years pass, the number of New Year's resolutions we make start to decrease. The reason is attributed to the sense of defeat. As people get older, they have a harder time keeping their New Year's resolution.

As believers, we welcome 2021 as another new year that God gave us. As Apostle Paul told us, "Behold, the old has gone, the new has come!" God sent us Jesus Christ, His only Son, so that we could live as new beings. Now, as we approach 2021, I hope we all live a new life as new beings. We hope to welcome the new year with a new resolution. Although this pandemic has caused us pain, sadness, frustration, despair, and disappointment in 2020, I hope in 2021 we forget the bad memories and painful wounds and start anew with a new resolution.

Since late March last year, Covid-19 has prevented us from having face-to-face worship. During that time, a church member asked for suggestions on devotions for her faith. As a Pastor, I was happy to make a suggestion and

was encouraged by this request. I came up with the book, "The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas A Kempis, because it is a great book for the fundamentals of faith. I thought it would be fruitful if our congregation read this book, one chapter every day, and had devotional time. I have shared it with our church family every day, encouraging our faith to imitate Jesus Christ. It must be our faith and our goal to imitate Him. These thoughts were on my mind as I prepared a sermon series for 2021.

With lots of prayer, I created the 2021 vision of our church: "Imitate Jesus Christ." I think this vision is the most basic fundamentals of life in our faith. As Christians, it is natural for us to strive to "imitate Jesus Christ." I hope our church family will have a time to look back on our faith and the basics.

I have set four important practices for us to strive for the 2021 vision: "Imitate Jesus Christ." 1. Be a disciple and make disciples. 2. Live a life of abiding with the Lord every day. 3. Sanctify our thoughts and actions. 4. Be a model in our homes, churches, and communities.

I hope that 2021 will be a year where we meditate on God's words every day for these four practices to imitate Christ through the prayer of daily companionship with the Lord.

May the grace, peace and blessing of the Lord be abundant for all our church families in the new year 2021!

Peace be with you
Pastor Gunsoo Jung

First United Methodist Church
 Newsletter Report, Our Giving – December
 2020

Date	Envelopes	Loose	Other	Received	For
December 6	1056.00	0.00	0.00	8867.00	Envelopes
December 13	772.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	Thanksgiving
December 20	1949.00	0.00	124.00	36.00	Poinsettia
December 27	5090.00	0.00	372.00	360.00	Christmas
			<u>SN:</u>	55.00	Memmorials

Budget income for December was \$9,363.00 with a weekly average of \$2,340.75. The weekly average needed to meet our budget is \$2,665.00. The final total income for November after 5 weeks was \$17,261.70, averaging \$3,452.34 weekly.

Church Services

The church council met and has decided to reopen the building for in-person worship services starting this coming Sunday: January 3rd. We will continue to follow the social distancing protocols and procedures we implemented in November and will continue to livestream our service via zoom.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

3	Ben Barrus
9	Jason Higgins Kevin Wilson Tyler Villegas
10	Harrison Mapstone
12	Carolyn Goetz Iain Gilmore
13	Connie Mapstone
15	Brock and Erin Sinclair Wayne Hess
16	Amy Higgins
17	Diana Medley Brian Betz Julie Mapstone
19	Liam Wilkie
22	Dawn Fisher
23	Lori Faulkner
26	Zander Wheeler
29	Reed Mapstone
30	Hailie Medley
31	Anne Jones

Ministries on Sunday Morning in January

Liturgists:

January 3 Brian Barrus
January 10 Jayne Gorski
January 17 Mike Frederick
January 24 Janet Flores
January 31 (open)

AV Assistants: Brian Gorski, Chris Gorski

Usher(s) and Greeters: TBD

Communion Servers:

Prayer List The following were prayed for during December:

- **For all crisis of COVID-19 in the world, not only just the United States**
- **For those who are struggling with mental and physical illnesses:**

Carl Anderson, Myla Novak, Darlene Spotts, Bertha Grimes, Kevin and Michelle, Ellen Smith, Ken Wilson, Emily Hepker, Robin Raines, Kaden Elizardo, Debbie Lake, Emily Alley, Connie Cox, Mary Gooze, Carolyn Goetz, Brian Betz, Melanie and Eric, Annaliese Marks, Gianna Sell, David Stucker, Jim Morris, Sheryle Miller, Martha Risher, Delbert Green, Tom Mowry, Fran Bohs, Michelle Vasquez

For special prayer:

1. Chris Mapstone: Pray for the healing process
2. Dawn Fisher: Pray for the healing process
3. Sandy Villegas Pray for the healing process.

Long term prayer:

David Anderson, Edie Holmes.

If you have prayer concerns or joys to add, or know of names that could be removed, please contact the church office at 486-4040 or blissfumc@gmail.com or gsj0925@yahoo.com

You are invited to visit, call, or send notes of encouragement to our shut-ins:

Fran Bohs, Gaslight Village
2625 N. Adrian Hwy
Adrian, MI 49221

Bill Downing
600 Sterling Drive, Apt. #15
North Baltimore, Ohio 45872

Darlene Spotts
9953 Treadwell
Blissfield, MI 49228
517-443-5834

Kids Sunday School will be each Sunday

When they are dismissed from church services.
(Preschool - 5th Grade)

But Canceled until

**Adult Sunday School will be at 9:30 AM.
Canceled until**

MEETINGS:

Church Council Meeting: Will be held January 13 at 7:00 pm, Wesley Hall, via Zoom.

Worship Committee Meeting: January 19, 11:00 am in Wesley Hall.

Financial Committee Meeting: January 19, via Zoom at 6:30 pm.

Remember our Local Food Pantry

They are asking for the following: Assorted Canned Soup, Cookie/Cake Mix and Canned Peaches.

Announcement

The installation of lay leaders of our church will be held January 10, 2021 during church services.

Saying goodbye to someone we love is heartbreaking. Our prayers and thoughts are with the families who have had a recent loss of loved ones.
Bob Spotts: 12/23/20
Ed Wilkie: 12/30/20

Joys and Concerns

If you have any 'Joys and Concerns' that you would like us to share in Sunday worship, please give them to ushers before the service. We are going to share your prayers.

Zoom Livestream Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627819923?pwd=WG00d1psK1JZVnFydKlNU3RlSzc5dz09>

Meeting ID: 816 2781 9923

Password: BFUMC

Financial Committee Letter of 2020

Hello Church family,

The Finance Committee would like to thank you for your generosity and support during a challenging year. Despite not being able to worship in our building many of you attended "car church" and worshiped with just as much enthusiasm as if we were in the building. With your giving and assistance from the District Conference we were able to continue to pay our bills and in July made a payment to the District towards our apportionments that was twice the amount of what we were able to pay in 2019. At year end we were able to make another payment to the District which we have not been able to do in several years. In order to keep this momentum we would like you to prayerfully consider the amount of your 2021 pledge. As we look ahead to next year we may not be sure where we will be worshiping from but we still would like to ask you for your renewed support through your yearly giving pledge to our church. Your pledge will help us to plan our 2021 and fund outreach activities. If you would like to change your pledge amount from last year please email Becca Gorski (gorski.ra@gmail.com) or you can send a letter to the church. If you are unsure of your pledge amount from last year it can be located at the bottom of your quarterly Giving Statement.

Thank you and God Bless,
Sarah Kerekgyarto
Financial Chairperson



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