

The Messenger

November 2020

(Editor's note: To give Barbi a hand, I have done this newsletter. Please be kind! ~Camilla)

Advent begins Sunday, November 29. This is the beginning of the Christian year, and a time for a new start. Our theme for Advent this year is "The Gift of the Nutcracker." During worship, we will explore what the characters of Clara, Drosselmeier, the Mouse King, and the Nutcracker can teach us about hope, peace, love, and joy. Look for a special mailing in mid-November that will help you participate most fully in this Advent experience.



This year for Advent, I am looking for people (individuals, couples, families, etc.) that are willing to help with the lighting of the Advent wreath—from home! I would like to find 4-5 households that would record their household lighting a candle (doesn't even have to be an Advent wreath) and offering a scripture and prayer (that I could supply for you). If you are interested, please contact me before November 15. ~Pastor Camilla

The church office will close at noon on Wednesday, November 25, and will remain closed until 8:30 am on Monday, November 30 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



*Give thanks with a grateful heart! Give thanks to the holy One!
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, his son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us"
(*"Give Thanks"* by Moen/Wilbur)*



It's once again time for Thanksgiving with all its traditions and celebrations. On October 3, 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation that made the fourth Thursday of November an official holiday. By then, the country had been engulfed by two years of a civil war, with no end in sight. By the time the conflict ended in 1865, more Americans had been killed than in all the wars we have been involved from the Revolutionary War until today. Yet in the midst of the chaos and bloodshed, Lincoln was persuaded to declare an official day for giving thanks for all the blessings we have received.

This year it would be easy to focus on all the things that have frustrated us, endangered us, and stolen away our traditions. Instead, let's take time to be truly thankful for God's power that has sustained us through this year. Take time to write your thanks to God. Consider including some memories of this year, both things that made you laugh and things that made you cry. Share those memories with your family and maybe create a 2020 Family Memories book. I think you will be pleasantly surprised at how many more good memories you have than you thought you might. Any why is that? Because God is Good! All the Time!

~Pastor Camilla

Worship schedule for November:

November 1—All Saints’ Day, Miley Palmer preaching. Communion will be celebrated.

November 8—Praying Through the Day: Intercession

November 15—Praying Through the Day: Holy Spirit. April Patek preaching.

November 22—Praying Through the Day—Jesus Christ

November 29—First Sunday of Advent. Hope.

Thank you for all the cards, gifts, and kind words during Pastor Appreciation Month! We are truly blessed to be part of this church family! Let’s get started on another great year together!

~Camilla and Jeff



Thank you for your many years of supporting and housing DFA (Dove Financial Assistance, formerly known as MAX)!

We could not help so many without you!

Pastor Shane

Santa Express

This is the time of year we remember Chaddock Children’s School and help supply needed toiletries for the students. Needed items are tissues, shampoo, conditioners, hand sanitizer, shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, body lotion, hair ties, brushes and combs, deodorant, chapstick, etc.

There will be a box in the church office with all items to be received by Sunday, November 29th.

Thanks so much for your support of the Chaddock Youth.

If you have questions, please check with Kathy Leavitt, 428-1387.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next blood drive is Saturday, November 7. Please contact Carol Drayton to reserve your time to give!

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FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Baby Fold, an agency of the United Methodist Church, will have their annual Festival Of Trees will be presented in a hybrid format this year. The bidding for trees and other decorations will begin online on Nov 1. You must register online beginning Nov. 1 to bid. The trees will be on display at Eastland Mall, Bloomington, November 16-21. Although there will be none of the other activities, you can expect beautiful trees and holiday décor on which to bid. Please support this ministry! <https://www.thebabyfold.org/festivaloftrees/>

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FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

The amount collected in the Noisy Change Offering on Sunday, October 25, was \$150.00. The offering will be sent to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, which supports mission activities and projects in our state and country, as well as around the world. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS OFFERING



FUMC has a long tradition of giving to support missions throughout the world at each year-end. The Missions Committee has identified the following mission projects for our Christmas offering:

- Good Samaritan Inn – The mission of the Inn is to create opportunities with the support of the community toward improving the lives of our economically disadvantaged neighbors through daily nourishment, life skills education and job training programs.
- Our Conference Our Kids – The churches and people of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the UMC are raising an endowment fund for the spiritual life and chaplaincy programs at our five children’s agencies - The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children’s Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, and Spero Family Services
- United Methodist Committee on Relief (“UMCOR”) – UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters - be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

Our Christmas offering for these mission projects will be taken on November 29 and December 6 and 13. If you aren’t able to worship with us on these Sundays, your gift can be mailed to the Church, Attn: Financial Secretary.

Thank you for supporting these mission projects. Your gifts enable our church to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and state and around the world.

Missions Committee

FUMC is volunteering to ring bells for the Salvation Army this year at one of our area stores. More info will be coming after we are able to sign up for a time slot. Please give some thought to being part of this mission activity in our community this year.
~ Mission Committee



The Mission Team will have the grocery cart out in the month of November to collect cans and jars of tomato products for Northeast Community Fund. So please bring your cans of tomato sauce, tomato soup, spaghetti sauce and other tomato products to share.

Thank you!

Children's Christmas Shoppe

Normally at this time of year I am almost tripping over the pile of gifts donated to the annual Children's Christmas Shoppe, making plans for my Black Friday shopping to get good deals on gifts for the Shoppe, and finalizing placements for the 45-50 Shoppe volunteers. Instead, this year I have been in prayer and conversation on how we could still hold this special activity that welcomes so many families from our community. While many ideas have been discussed, none of them even comes close to the spirit and purpose of the event.



If you are not familiar with the annual Children's Christmas Shoppe, here are some of the highlights:

- *Children get to shop for just the right gift to surprise loved ones on Christmas morning.
- *Families can relax and enjoy fellowship during one of the busiest times of the year.
- *Volunteers serve alongside friends and family in one of the jolliest spots in town.

Any alternative discussed lost sight of the event's purpose or became unrealistic to execute. With the stores closed for so long and our church family staying home, the Shoppe has understandably received very few gift donations this year. (We set out about 2000 gifts each year for the children to shop from.) I could probably make up for that by buying extra on Black Friday, but I am doubtful that type of shopping will be available. So, this "elf" is very, very sad that **we will not be holding the Christmas Shoppe this year.**

If you have gifts at home you've been waiting to drop off at church for the Shoppe, there are 2 new cabinets an Eagle Scout built for us to store the gifts during the year. If you happen to find any good deals or post-Christmas sales, I will save them until next year. (No food or hygiene products please as these items expire.) And because we need to look forward with hope to the future... Save December 4th for Christmas Shoppe **2021.**

-Jennifer Horton-Motter

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

*The deadline for the next newsletter is November 15.
Please note that this will be a combined newsletter for
December 2020 and January 2021.*



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

UMW News

Virginia McQuiston, UMW Unit President

- **UMW Contributions.** The amounts given in response to the UMW Sunday letter are very good. We are especially grateful for the generous anonymous donation to replace the income we usually receive for our Trash and Treasure sale.
- **Mission Recognition: Marilyn Stevens.** On UMW Sunday, Marilyn was in New Orleans with the Red Cross working with about 16,000 displaced persons living in the 42 hotels in the French Quarter. Virginia provided her with a copy of the statement made in her recognition and sent a UMW pin in a small, decorated box. Marilyn's response upon receiving the pin, "What an honor! This will help carry me through some of those days when I wonder why God called me."
- Patty Barr was able to successfully attend the annual IGRC UMW meeting via zoom. Please check the websites for Cunningham Children's Home <https://www.cunninghamhome.org/> and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House <https://lessiebatesdavis.org/> for current information, especially how they are coping with the present circumstances.
- Miriam Circle and Mary & Martha Circle have met at the church this fall wearing masks and using social distancing.
- The **Christmas Tea** will be held as we see it now. Of course, appropriate safety measure will be observed. These plans may be changed if circumstances change.
- **Esther Carlson** – we mourn the loss of a long-time, very loyal and active member. Prayers for her family.
- **Maintain contacts.** Please continue to be in contact with each other, especially our members who are unable to be out and about due to concern for themselves and others. We continue to be in prayer for our missions.
- **UMW Purpose.** Read the *UMW Purpose* and let us continue to do the work we are called to do!

PEACE AND BLESSINGS,

Virginia McQuiston

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

I don't need to tell you that everything that we might have done for Christmas Eve worship in the past has to be re-examined and adapted this year. Here's what you need to know:

- On December 24, there will be 4 services: 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, and 11:30 pm. Each of these services will be between 30 and 45 minutes long. The services will be identical, and will include communion and candle light. **ATTENDANCE WILL BE LIMITED TO 75 PEOPLE PER SERVICE.** In order to maintain that limit, beginning Monday, November 9, you will be able to go on the church website or call the church office to reserve your seats. All we will need is your name and the number of people in your group. I know this is inconvenient, but I prefer doing this so that we don't have to turn people away at the door. We are starting the reservations early to make sure everyone has plenty of time to reserve seats.
- If you prefer to worship at home, a full service, including special music from all our musical groups, will be available on our website and our YouTube channel beginning on December 24.



If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at the church. This is not ideal, I know. But in order to keep everyone safe, I think this is our best choice. I hope to see you at one of the services December 24!

IT'S ALMOST NOVEMBER—DO YOU KNOW HOW YOUR FRIENDS ARE DOING?

We have been isolated in one form or another about 7 ½ months. Some of us have been able to see each other at worship this month, or maybe on a zoom meeting or a church committee meeting. Many more people have remained isolated at home, though. People who last year attended worship every week are now getting groceries delivered because they cannot leave the house. I am learning that there are some in our church family that are feeling neglected. Although Miley has done a fabulous job of keeping in touch with people, there are people who have not been contacted by friends from the church. These members of our church family are dealing with feelings of depression, loneliness, and rejection.

Things are not as tense as they were early in the pandemic. We all have a little more time. We need to reach out to our friends who are stuck inside. Let me make some suggestions:

- Make a list of the people in your small group (Sunday School, Bible study, etc).
- Make a commitment to call at least 4 people per week, just to say “hi!” “I miss you!” “How are you doing?”
- Repeat as often as possible!

Miley and I have worked to keep connected with the entire body of the church. Those who have remained isolated have expressed their appreciation for that connection. I want to personally commend Miley for his tireless work to stay connected with everyone in the church. But those who are still isolated are missing their friends. Many are feeling they have been abandoned or forgotten by their church friends. Please, as the AT&T ad used to say, “Reach Out and Touch Someone.” Do it today!

