



JANUARY TIDINGS 2024

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 1



Dear Friends,

It is always exciting to launch into a new year, open to all the opportunities and possibilities that God has for us. January 7 is a big day for our church as we welcome new members coming from Bloomfield Hills St Paul, into Troy First. Looking back on last year, I remember the day when I got a text from our DS, telling me that there was a church in our area that might be interested in a merger. A week later I would learn that the church was Bloomfield Hills St Paul. We put together Better Together teams from both churches, and we were off and running, looking for how we might come together to serve Christ better. Twelve months, lots of meetings, tons of prayers and three charge conferences later, we (Troy First and Bloomfield Hills St Paul) find ourselves bound together in love and service. I am truly excited to see what God has planned for us in the coming months.

A quick look ahead at what is planned for 2024 (so far). In January we will go back to the movies with our Faith and Film series. We had such a blast last year when we met at the Emagine theater to see A Man Called Otto. This year, mark your calendars for January 16, 23 and 30. We shifted some committee meetings around because, well...who can resist \$5 movie night with free popcorn? We'll meet at the Emagine Theater in Rochester around 7pm. (movie times vary). Our first movie is The Color Purple.

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AT A GLANCE

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REV. MYRA MORELAND
Senior Pastor

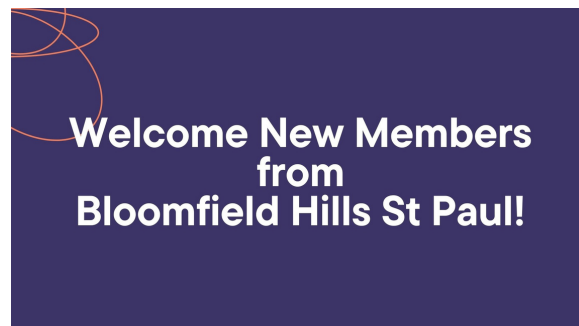
In February we will prepare for Lent by digging deep into our faith. We are going to pull out those questions about God and faith that haunt us from time to time... the questions that nag at us and the world around us. Questions like: How do I know that God exists; Is the Bible true? And Do prayers go unanswered? We will be working with Adam Hamilton's book *Wrestling with Doubt and Finding Faith*.

Then in March, we will flip the script, looking at some questions that God has for us. We'll be using Trevor Hudson's book, *The Questions God Asks Us* as we prepare for Easter.

We'll start the year with some fun and then dig in to wrestle with questions of faith. We will dig into the question we have about faith, then listen to the questions and challenges God has for us. Come along with us on the journey into the new year.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Myra



A NOTE FROM OUTREACH...

Do you have a Medicare Advantage plan that gives you an allowance every quarter for over-the-counter medicines and food?

Are you finding it hard to fit everything in your medicine chest and yet still have money left over?

So what might you do with the extra money?

Consider looking closely at the food items that are available under your plan. Even if these are things you would not ordinarily use, they may be wonderful contributions to the Auburn snacks or food pantry items that we collect.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jane Egermann.



Martin Luther King celebration activities:

The Greater Detroit District celebration of Martin Luther King Day will be held **January 14 at Royal Oak First UMC. Reception at 2:30 pm, Program at 3:30pm.**

The City of Troy celebration of Martin Luther King Day will be **January 15 at Athens High School.**

Please check local papers for exact start time. It usually begins around 8 am.



What are the next steps for combating gun violence?

End Gun Violence Michigan, in conjunction with the UMC Michigan conference, will conduct a two-day seminar via Zoom.

January 29 and 30 from 10am to 3:30 pm.

Anyone interested should register at the End Gun Violence Michigan website.

UWF YEAR END

United Women in Faith Mission Giving 2023

United Women in Faith always say that most of the money raised through various fundraising (i.e. Rummage Sale, Book Sale, Flower Sale, Bottle and Can Drives, Cookie Walk, etc), goes toward Mission Giving. Here is a list of our Budgeted Mission Support in 2023:

Greater Detroit District UWF Pledge to Mission
Baldwin Center, Pontiac
Cass Community Social Services
Gleaners
Lighthouse (lunch supplies for host week lunches)

At the end of our fiscal year, we were able to contribute to:

Scholarship for Pastor Myra
Troy People Concerned
Rochester Neighborhood House
Lighthouse
Auburn Elementary (school supplies and healthy snacks)
MCHS Family of Services
United Methodist Community House (Grand Rapids)
Grace Centers of Hope
HAVEN
Downtown Boxing Gym

For all of these agencies/charities, UWF donated almost \$10,000!! So, the next time that UWF has a fundraising project, please consider supporting their efforts because what the women of Troy 1st do, does make a difference in our community and the world.

HOSPITALITY

Back by Popular Demand-----Dinner Groups

What is a dinner group?? It is a group of 6-8 people that meet monthly to have dinner or lunch. You have the option of going out to a restaurant or eating at home.

Sign-ups will begin in January and groups will begin meeting in February.

You can choose to meet with people you have known for years or join a group to get to know some folks a little better.

This is open to everyone and it is a great opportunity to invite friends to be involved.

If you have any questions, contact Robin Ostergaard

Fellowship, Fun & Food! **Dinner group is now enrolling new members!**

Signup in the CLC after worship January 21 & 28

Or contact:

Robin Ostergaard

248-765-7433

rjoster01@hotmail.com



Groups meet monthly
Time and restaurant selected by the group

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 2** Dick Parker, Sharon Aho
- 4** Chris DeVilling, Sarah Williston
- 10** Keith Sadlier
- 14** Justin Strong, Carolyn Jones, Lincoln David Shock
- 16** Elizabeth & Paul Daly
- 17** Geoffrey Williston, Holly Goudie
- 18** Pete Woods
- 19** Nancy Dolehanty
- 23** Michelle Freeman
- 25** Chris Gullion
- 27** Jeff MacLean
- 29** Jan Bancroft
- 31** Robert Drager

LAST CHANCE PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTO SHOOT

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31
2-8PM

CALL LISA TO SCHEDULE
YOUR PHOTO TIME
248 797-5360

Faith and Film!



Mark your calendars



- January 16
- January 23
- January 30

FAITH & FILM

**TUESDAY
JAN 16TH
\$5 TICKETS**

RESERVE YOUR TICKET
AFTER SERVICE IN THE CLC!

THE COLOR PURPLE

A BOLD NEW TAKE ON THE BELOVED CLASSIC

ANGELA BASSON DIRECTOR HARRISON A.E.A. HALEY PEARL WINKER WRITER

CHRISTMAS DAY

The image shows a theater screen with red curtains on either side. The screen displays the text 'FAITH & FILM' at the top, followed by 'TUESDAY JAN 16TH \$5 TICKETS'. Below that, it says 'RESERVE YOUR TICKET AFTER SERVICE IN THE CLC!'. To the right of the text is a movie poster for 'The Color Purple', featuring three women. The poster includes the text 'A BOLD NEW TAKE ON THE BELOVED CLASSIC' and 'ANGELA BASSON DIRECTOR HARRISON A.E.A. HALEY PEARL WINKER WRITER'. At the bottom of the poster, it says 'CHRISTMAS DAY'. The theater floor is visible at the bottom of the screen.

Take your light into the world and let it shine!



Photo from Christmas Eve 7pm Service courtesy of Gale Blair

**WE WELCOME JUDY WHITE TO
OUR MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM!**

