

# March Tidings 2021

## A Word from Pastor

"For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes...So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another."

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26, 33, NRSV)

Each month, as we celebrate Holy Communion together, I say a paraphrased version of most of Paul's words about Communion that he wrote to the church in Corinth. Paul was reminding the Corinthians of the symbolism of the meal, and further reminding them that it was important for them to wait for one another to gather, so that everyone would be able to eat together.

A year ago, when our Communion Stewards team set up our Communion table with the bread and juice on March 1st, it never entered my mind that we wouldn't do it again, much the same way, on the first Sunday of April. Since that Sunday, we have gathered at the Lord's table in a number of ways. For a couple of months, following our bishop's recommendation, we had a Love Feast, using water and unconsecrated bread. When we realized that we would not gather physically for a while, we ordered the tiny cups of bread and juice, and encouraged one another to use those, or to find something in the house that would substitute while we celebrated the sacrament virtually. As in many things that we've done in the last year, we made the best of the situation. We waited for one another, and we have found a way to continue to support one another in prayer. We may not be able to stand together at the altar rail, or to come to receive the Communion elements from someone's hands, but we still gather in a time of remembrance and celebration. I believe strongly Jesus Christ is present with us when we do this.

As we come to the first anniversary of worshiping in these new ways, I see the hope that we will be gathering in larger numbers soon. In the meantime, I'm doing something sentimental. We have been using the same juice and alternating two loaves of bread between the office freezer and the altar table for the past months. At first I did this because I figured that we would have new bread and juice in a month or so as we vanquished this strange virus and came triumphantly back to our "normal" lives. Since June I have done this because I'm waiting for us. I'm waiting to buy some new juice and to have some new bread when we can celebrate that the combination of our safety precautions and commitment to vaccinations has yielded the joy of gathering safely together again. I'm using the elements that Rev. Jane Berquist and I offered to you last year; the ones that have continued to symbolize that our congregation, though separated by distance, is one in Christ.

We will tell a lot of stories about this time in our lives. We will make the time to tell them in worship, in small groups, and in the conversations we share one with another. One of the stories I will tell is about the bread and the juice that reminded me of each one of you, every time I held the loaf and each time I raised the chalice toward you. You were with me at the table, every time. Thanks be to God for this holy mystery.

Peace to you,

Pastor Weatherly

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# STEPHEN MINISTRY TIDBIT

In Christ we are made new. In Him, we have the recipe to live the very best life. He neither adds too much of one thing or leaves out another, so let us learn to live for Him, and with Him, and in Him-to cast off the old ways and, instead, operate with the ingredients of His goodness and truth.

-Logan Wolfram

## **TIDINGS AT A GLANCE**

- 1 A Word from Pastor
- 2 Staff/ At a Glance / Stephen Ministry Tidbit
- 3 Save the Dates/ Memorial Book Focus/Monthly Scriptures
- 4 Can Drive & Ingathering Updates
- 5 Finance Update
- 6 Pickleball / Texters Wanted / Many Thanks
- 7 Two New Studies Coming Soon
- 8 General Conf. Update
- 9 UMW
- 10 Craft Weekend / Easter Flowers / Easter Offering /
- 11 Spring ahead / Blood Drives / Summer Camp
- 12 Health Pros
- 13 Birthdays & Anniversaries

## SAVE THE DATES

**MAR 3 |** Mid Week Word-Hybrid, 10am

**MAR 4 |** God & Country, 5pm

**MAR 7 |** Communion Sunday-9am Sanctuary, 10am Online Worship, Get Their Name, 11:30am First Kids, 4:30pm, UMYF,6:45pm

**MAR 8 |** Red Cross Blood Drive, 12-6pm

**MAR 9 |** Red Cross Blood Drive, 10am-4pm

**MAR 10 |** Mid Week Word-Hybrid, 10am

**MAR 11 |** UMW Circle-Hybrid, 10am, God & Country, 5pm

**MAR 13 |** Men's Breakfast-Hybrid, 8am, SPRING AHEAD CLOCKS

**MAR 14 |** Worship -9am Sanctuary, 10am Online Worship, Get Their Name, 11:30am First Kids, 4:30pm, UMYF,6:45pm

**MAR 15 |** Tidings Deadline

**MAR 17 |** Mid Week Word-Hybrid, 10am

**MAR 18 |** God & Country, 5pm

**MAR 20 |** Boy Scout Troop 1707 Open House, 11am-1pm

**MAR 21 |** Worship -9am Sanctuary, 10am Online Worship, Get Their Name, 11:30am First Kids, 4:30pm, UMYF,6:45pm

**MAR 24 |** Mid Week Word-Hybrid, 10am

**MAR 28 |** Worship -9am Sanctuary, 10am Online Worship, Get Their Name, 11:30am First Kids, 4:30pm, UMYF,6:45pm

## MEMORIAL BOOK FOCUS

	In Memory Of	Perpetuated In
<b>March 7</b>	FUMC of Troy congregation of family and friends	Ukraine Wooden Cross
<b>March 14</b>	Edgar J. Seyb Jr & Robert R. Seyb	Lamp for Sanctuary Organ
<b>March 21</b>	Wilbur Raymond Martell	Bibles for Youth
<b>March 28</b>	France Jarnagin	Bibles for Youth

The Memorial Garden Book Focus for the month of March:

Robert Jon Berkompas

## THIS MONTH'S SCRIPTURES

March 7: John 2: 13-22

March 14: John 3: 14-21

March 21: John 12: 20-33

March 28: Mark 11: 1-11

## UMW & UMYF CAN DRIVE

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to our can drive in February!! Together, we raised over \$2000 for our ministries. We are so incredibly thankful for your support and the support of our community.

## UMW INGATHERING NEWS & UPDATE

- 1)** Thank you for all who donated chips/crackers/cookies for our recent ingathering project. These were included in sack lunches at the Baldwin Center in Pontiac. Our final total was **1874 packages**. WOW! That will supplement almost 3 weeks worth of lunches. Baldwin Center was so grateful and so are the United Methodist Women! Thanks again.
- 2)** Just a reminder that we continue to collect **travel sized toiletries**. These are primarily used for goodie bags for our Cass Community Social Services picnic. While it is un-likely that we will host this picnic again in 2021, Cass and several other agencies that support the homeless population are in need of these toiletries. Usually, we collect these items from hotel stays, but due to the pandemic, that has been greatly reduced. There are a variety of stores that carry these toiletries. They include: Meijer, Kroger, Target, Walmart and others. You can deposit these toiletries in the bin in Mercer Hall labeled 'travel toiletries'. If you wish to make a cash donation to purchase toiletries, please contact Barbara Strozynski, UMW Treasurer. Thank you for your continued support of United Methodist Women mission projects.
- 3) Diaper Ingathering for Baby Basics of Troy:** From March 1-April 30, we will be collecting diapers for Baby Basics of Troy. Baby Basics supplies diapers to low income families in Troy. Last year we collected 1933 diapers for Baby Basics. Let's see if we can top that!! At this time, their greatest need is for Size 6 diapers. There is a bin in Mercer Hall labeled 'Diapers for Baby Basics'. Let's see how many times we can fill it! Watch for discount coupons in the paper or sales at your favorite store. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, please contact Barbara Strozynski, United Methodist Women Treasurer. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Questions?? Contact Robin Ostergaard

# Finance Update

Thank you to all our church family for your financial and prayerful support in January and February 2021. We understand it is difficult to remain physically apart, but we hope you continue to see the value in supporting the church as we use virtual options to come together safely during this time.

We have now received 69 pledges for a total of \$306,754. After January (excluding pre-pays), we are \$6400 below our anticipated average monthly O&M giving. It is early yet, we hope to catch up in February, as we did last year.

Below is a summary of the 2021 budget for our church.

## 2021 Budget Summary:

<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$468,375</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>World Ministries:</b>	\$40,677
<b>Pastoral Ministries:</b>	\$95,864
<b>Staff Ministries/Office Supplies:</b>	\$106,550
<b>Worship/Music:</b>	\$1,400
<b>Navigators:</b>	\$1,250
<b>Finance Fees Associated Services:</b>	\$5,313
<b>Church Building Expenses &amp; Utilities:</b>	\$176,219
<b>Parsonage Building Expenses &amp; Utilities:</b>	\$6,696
<b>Church &amp; Equipment Maintenance Contracts:</b>	\$34,987
<b>Capital Expenditures Non-Budget</b>	\$10,000
<b>Education/Youth Missions:</b>	\$5,675
<b>Community Action</b>	\$500
<b>Expenses Total:</b>	<b>\$485,131</b>
<b>Contribution from Memorials Funds and Grants:</b>	\$19,375
<b>Projected Year 2021 Deficit:</b>	\$16,756

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to join the finance committee, please feel free to reach out to me.

Laura Daly Barnes

2021 Finance Chair

## **PICKLEBALL IS BACK!**

Contact Elizabeth Daly for your reservation to play on Sundays, from 3-5 pm on the following Sundays:

March 28, April 11 + 18, May 2, 16 +23, June 6 + 13

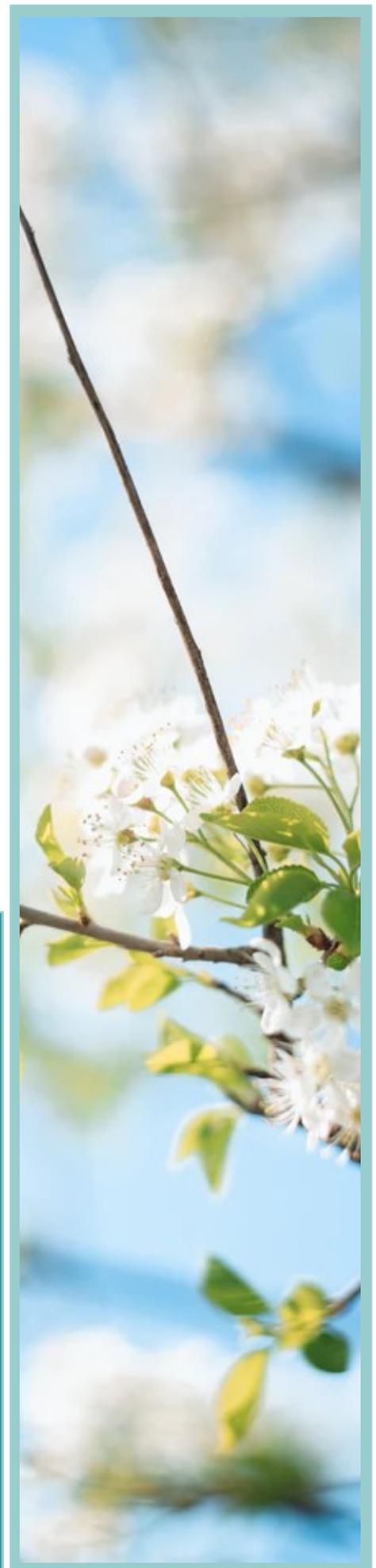
We are excited to get back to some indoor activities at the church!

## **CALLING ALL TEXTERS**

If you are interested in joining a text based prayer chain, text Carole Bauer at 248-890-9033 with your name and interest in joining this important group.

## **MANY THANKS!**

Isabella Hom recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, becoming the first female Eagle Scout in Troop 1707G. She joins the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts, since Scouting BSA opened its program to female youth in 2019. Her Eagle project benefited the HOPE Warming Center by providing hygiene kits, touchless thermometers, pulse oximeters, blood pressure monitors, and Naloxone medical supply cabinets. To fund these activities, she organized Scouts to return over 21,000 bottles and cans. Thank you to FUMC families who donated bottles/cans and kit supplies!



## GOOD NEWS! WE HAVE A STUDY FOR YOU

Beginning on March 21<sup>st</sup>, you are invited to join in "A Disciple's Path" a four-week study on Rev. Jim Harnish's book of the same name. Our study will focus on deepening our spiritual lives by committing to following Christ using the distinctive Wesleyan/Methodist pathway of study, prayer, service to others, generous giving, and community worship.

Is this going to be a boring discussion? No way! Each week, we will meet to see a brief video, to discuss the insights you have about the readings you've done in the reader and the what you've gained by doing daily exercises in the study workbook.

What time do we do this? Sunday, March 21 and 28 and April 11 and 18 we will meet by Zoom at 11:30 a.m. for a one-hour discussion.

Where do I get the books? The book and workbook are available in the church office for the combined price of \$15. You are welcome to purchase the books independently; call the church office for the publishing information, or feel free to look up A Disciple's Path on the internet to find a bargain.

Who will lead the study? Pastor Weatherly will facilitate the study, and all of us will collaborate in leading and in teaching one another.

Other questions? Please contact the church office (248-879-6363) or Pastor Weatherly (989-598-6506).

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mark your calendar for April 25, 11:30 am, for the first of five book discussions on The Lord's Prayer. You should buy a paperback version of *The Greatest Prayer* by John Dominic Crossan ahead of time. The discussion leader will be Rev. Rich Peacock. He prays that the book and discussions will enlighten your thinking and deepen your experience of God in Christ.

# GENERAL CONFERENCE 2021 AN UPDATE & A CALL TO PRAYER

**Background:** The General Conference of the United Methodist Church meets every four years as the primary decision-making body of our denomination. Lay and clergy delegates from our United Methodist and Methodist-affiliated bodies meet to consider legislative matters from conferences around our world. Any changes to our denomination's Book of Discipline (our rules and governing principles) are made here.

**The Dates:** As you may have read or seen, the General Conference was rescheduled from May 2020 to to late August 2021, and then after a global technology meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>, ultimately scheduled for August 29-September 6, 2022. This rescheduling is to ensure that delegates from around our world will be able to meet in-person safely. Please see the link below for detailed information about some of these issues.

General Conference meeting and technological challenges:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/a-virtual-general-conference-faces-hurdles>

**The Issues:** Among the thousands of pieces of legislation that may come before the body are plans that could affect our denomination's stance on human sexuality, specifically whether United Methodist clergy may officiate at same-sex marriages, and if persons who identify as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, or transgender may be ordained as clergypersons. Our denomination has debated these issues for a number of years, and we recognize that we have deep theological disagreements about them. Recognizing this, a variety of plans have been conceived to help us to live together in this continuing disagreement, or to help us to find a way to separate as amicably as possible. If you would like more information about the plans coming before General Conference, or how local churches are reacting to this potential separation, please see the links below.

Plans to be shared at General Conference and local congregations' options:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/comparing-plans-headed-to-gc2020-revised-12-2019>

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/local-church-options-under-separation-plans>

**Our Work:** The most important thing that we can do for our group of Michigan Conference delegates is to pray for them. Pray for their discernment; pray for their resilience as they prepare for a conference that may be quite different than previous ones held in person, or may be postponed again. And pray for them as they represent our conference in the larger body of the General Conference. Their names are listed below; please take time to lift them in your prayers as we continue to receive updates about when and how the General Conference will happen, and as we continue to work together as the Body of Christ known as the United Methodist Church.

Michigan Conference delegates: Laura Witkowski: delegation co-chair, Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai: delegation co-chair

Rev. Joy Barrett, Diane Brown, Rev. Paul Perez, Jennifer Peters, Nichea Van Veer Guy, Rev. Meghan Walther, Alternates: Ruby Anderson, Rev. Charles Boayue, Rev. Joel Fitzgerald, and Hoon-Yung Hopgood

## UMW

### DEBORAH CIRCLE IS BACK!

All women of the church are encouraged to join us for our events.

#### UMW Events for March include:

March 2, 10:00 am, Executive Board – NOTE: For this month only, this meeting is on a Tuesday. All women are invited to attend this planning meeting. Watch the Word at Home for a Zoom link.

March 11, 10:00 am, Ruth Circle – "The Art of the Passion," artworks taking us through Lent/ Passion of the Christ, will be presented by Pastor Weatherly. Watch the Word at Home for a Zoom link.

March 11, 7:00 pm, Deborah Circle resumes – A recording of Pastor Weatherly's presentation will be played. Watch the Word at Home for a Zoom link.

March 13, 10:00 am, Greater Detroit District Mission Workshop on Human Trafficking. This is a Zoom event. Registration is required. E-mail Kristine Miranne at [Kris-tine.miranne1921@gmail.com](mailto:Kris-tine.miranne1921@gmail.com) with your name, e-mail address and church affiliation by March 10 at 5pm. Program materials and a Zoom link will be sent to you. Contact Ann Goff for more information.

#### SAVE THE DATE:

April 8, 10:00 am – Kevin Roach, CEO of Methodist Children's Home Society, will present a program on the Methodist Children's Home Society.

April 8, 7:00 pm – Deborah Circle – a recording of the morning Circle program will be provided.



# MARCH

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## CRAFTING WEEKEND-BAYSHORE CAMP

BayShore Camp is offering a Weekend of crafting, quilting, and a guest speaker. Details can be found at [www.bayshorecamp.org](http://www.bayshorecamp.org) (register on this site as well)

It is a "bring a friend and save" weekend, with all CDC and state guidelines being followed. There is even a live auction with nice items up for bid! You can contact the camp office with questions, 989-883-2501.

You can bring any craft project you are working on, and complete it this weekend!!

March 26-28, 10am on Friday to 3pm on Sunday, prices vary with housings.

Sounds like a great little get-a-way weekend for the crafty minded soul.

They are also offering a "crafters: weekend for scrapbooking, which is March 19-21. Again, check out [Bayshorecamp.org](http://Bayshorecamp.org) for all the details.

## Easter Flowers!

Contact the church office to order your Easter Flowers in memory or honor of someone you love! Price and type are still being determined, but we will share that information with you as soon as we have it! Usually they are around \$10/plant! Thanks for helping us beautify our Easter experience!

## Easter Offering Goals

Cass Methodist Community Services	\$ 500
Missionary Support-Princess Jusu	\$ 1,500
Methodist Children's Home Society	<u>\$ 500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,500</b>

## **SPRING AHEAD!**

Don't forget to SPRING AHEAD ON Saturday, March 13, before you go to bed!!! Don't want to miss worship, either at 9am, or 10am, whichever you choose!! CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS, Change your smoke detector batteries!

## **BLOOD DRIVES APPROACHING**

We have not one, but TWO chances to donate blood at Troy First this month!!! Monday, March 8 and Tuesday, March 9. Please sign up online at REDCROSS.org . You'll be glad you did!! If you are unable to make either of these, the next one is April 2.

## **THANK YOU FOR SAVING LIVES**

The blood drive collected in February will go to help 96 hospital patients! 96 lives saved! Thanks to all who donate blood or their time to be a part of these events! We have increased the number of blood drives we hosted in the last year and the Red Cross is so so thankful!!!

## **SUMMER CAMP 2021**

ReConnect. ReCreate. ReNew.

You can check out the details and register online at [umcamping.org](http://umcamping.org)!

There are many opportunities for you...friendships, fun, games, and new adventure's. God will be there!! With all safety protocols in place, Summer Camp 21 is ready to welcome you. Flyers available at the church! Complete descriptions at [umcamping.org/2021](http://umcamping.org/2021)



## Health Pros

### February Was Heart Month

Sometimes we don't feel well but don't know what is causing it or think our symptoms will go away in a few hours. Ignoring symptoms or waiting for them to go away is not always wise. This is especially true for Heart Attacks or Strokes. This information was provided by the Heart Association.

#### HEART WARNING SIGNS:

Chest discomfort – Usually in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes or that goes away and comes back. It can be uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, or fullness.

2. Discomfort in other areas of the upper body – Pain/discomfort can be in one or both arms, the jaw, neck, back or stomach.
3. Shortness of breath – Usually with chest discomfort but can be without it.
4. Breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or lightheadedness.

If you or someone you are with has one or more of these signs, call 911 immediately. Remember that an ambulance can provide life saving treatment on the way if it becomes necessary!

#### STROKE WARNING SIGNS:

Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body.

Sudden confusion, trouble speaking, or understanding.

Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.

Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.

Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

If you or someone you are with is having one or more of these symptoms, Call 911 immediately as they can give treatment in transit if needed.

Information courtesy of the American Heart Association

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY & HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

## MARCH

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